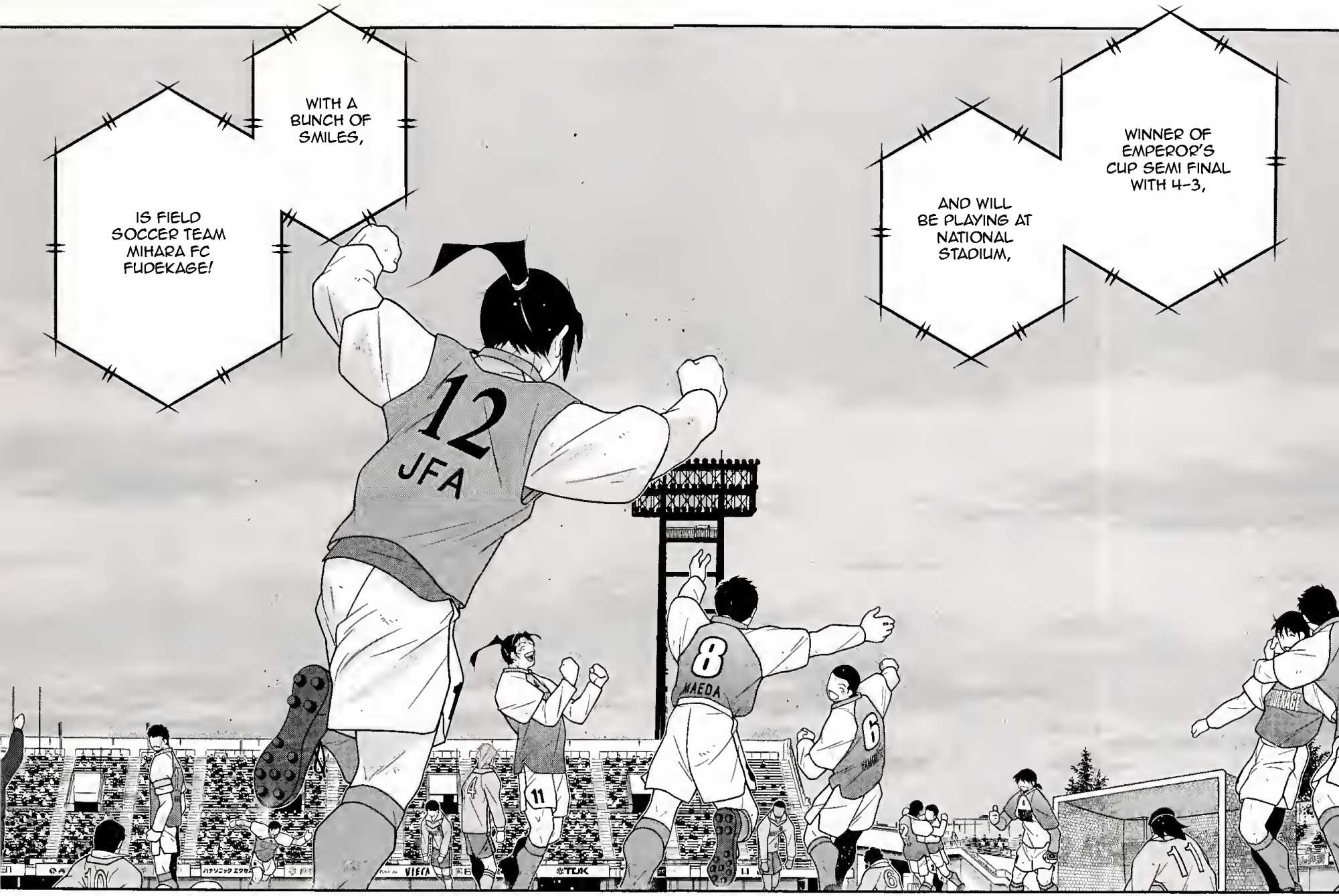
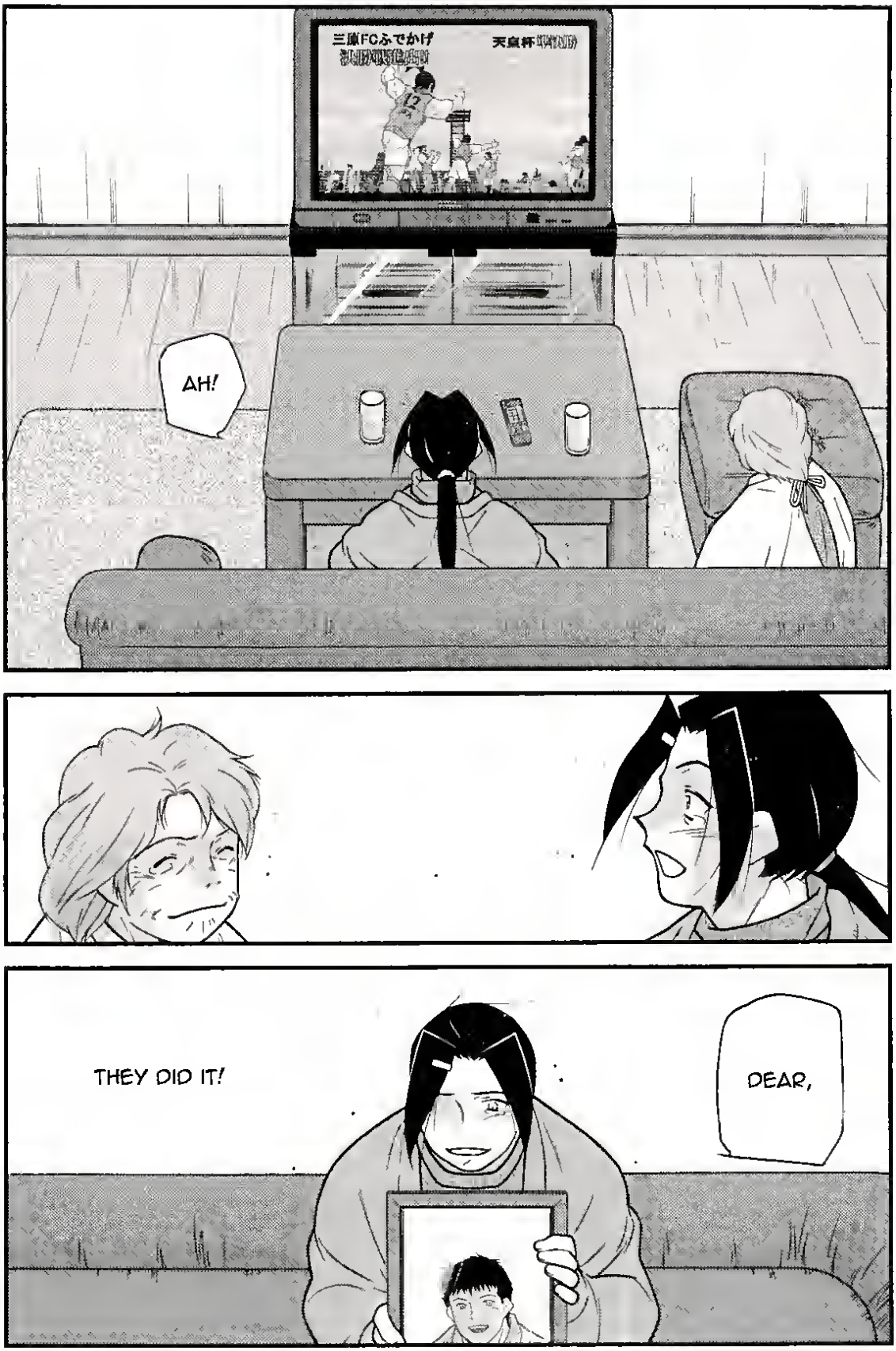
FINAL CHAPTER

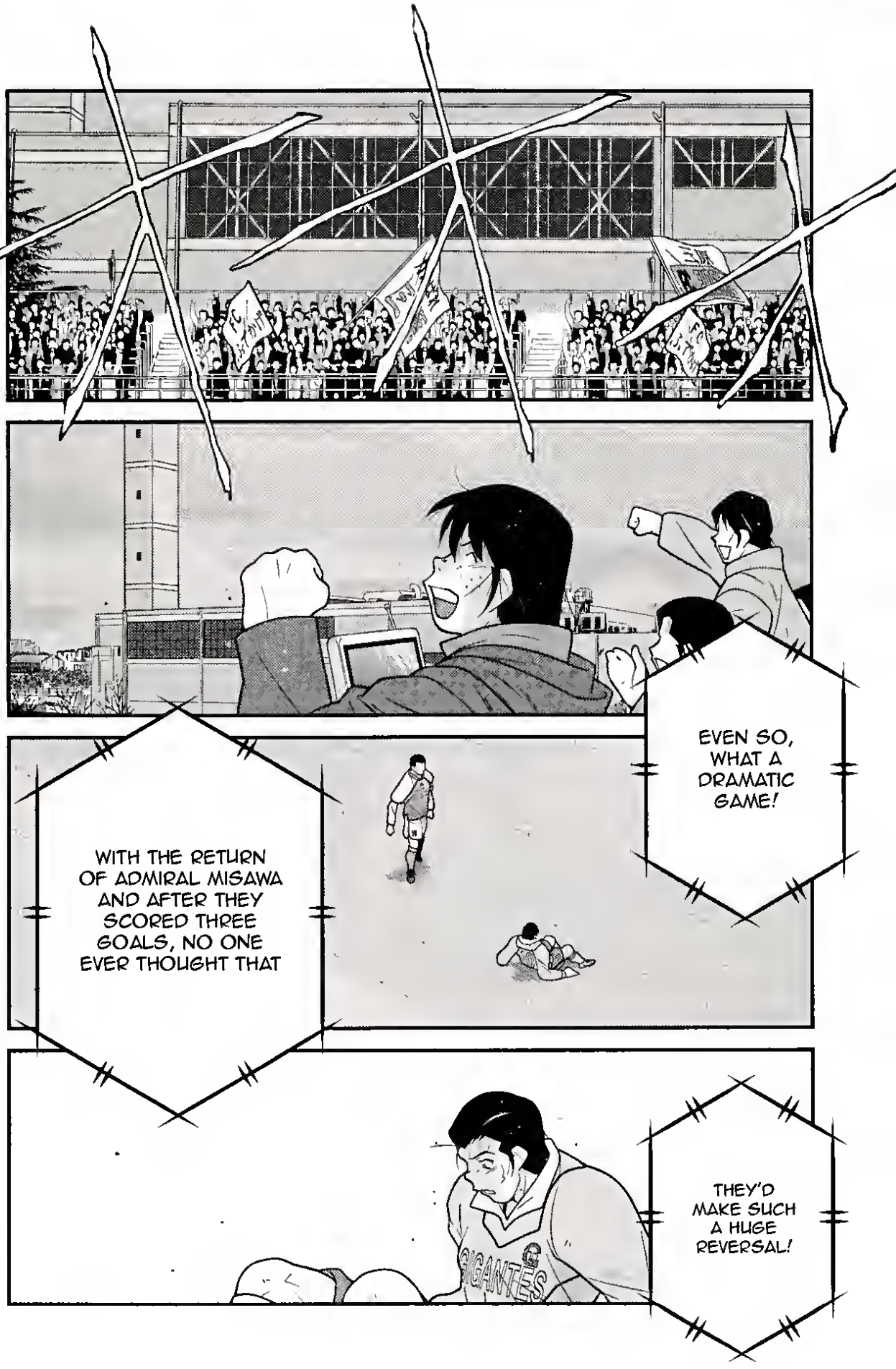
DECEMBER 24TH,
EXPO STADIUM, 02:54 P.M..
WHEN THE INJURY TIME HAS PASSED
SIX MINUTES,
DEFENDER OISHI CLEARED THE BALL,
ENDING THE GAME.

JFA
12
JFA


WITH A BUNCH OF SMILES,
IS FIELD SOCCER TEAM MIHARA FC FUDEKAGE!
WINNER OF EMPEROR'S CUP SEMI FINAL WITH 4-3,
AND WILL BE PLAYING AT NATIONAL STADIUM,
12
JFA
8
MAEDA
11
6
11

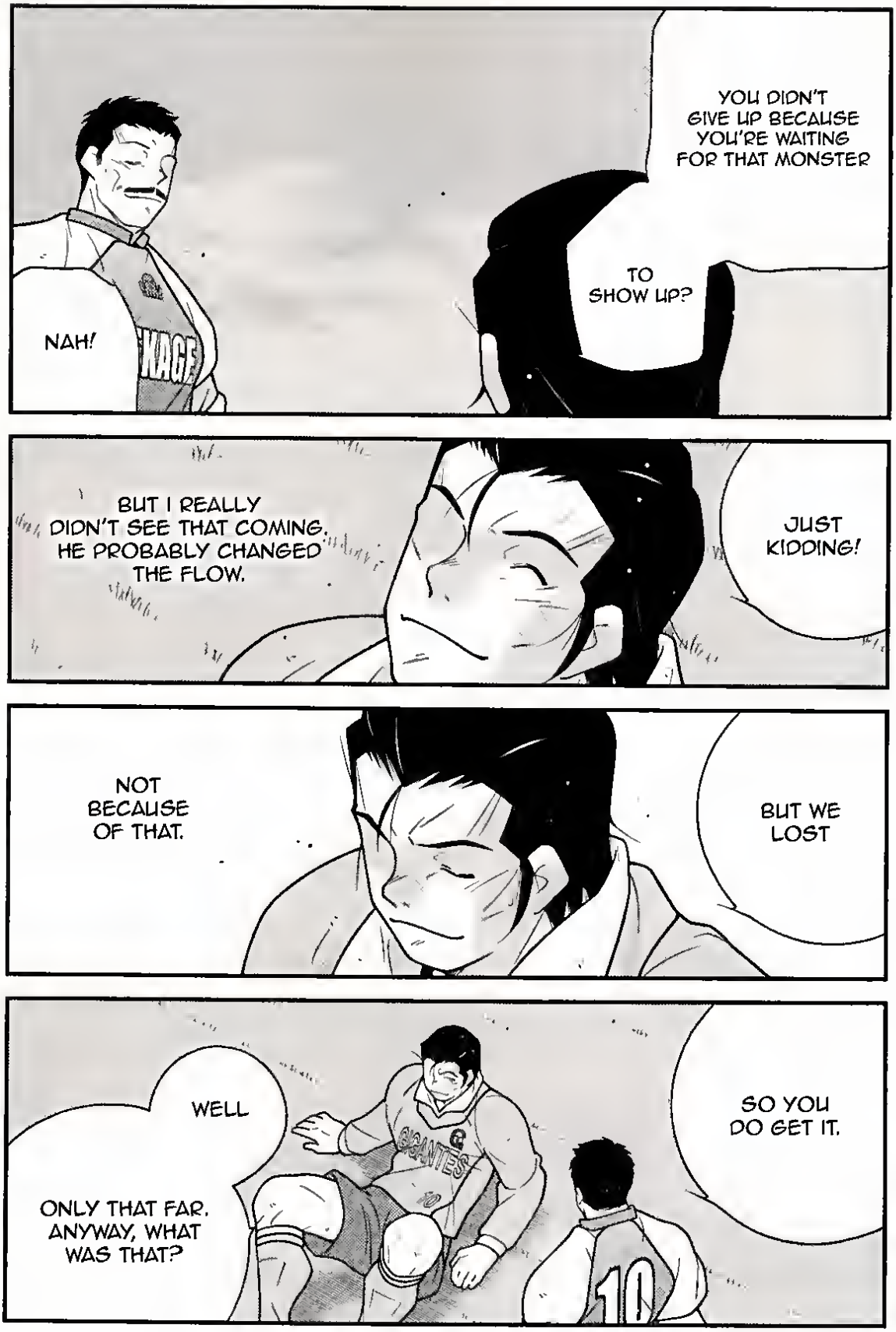

三原FCふでかげ
天皇杯
AH!
THEY DID IT!
DEAR,

THEY'VE FOUGHT TO GET TO
YOUR BELOVED NATIONAL STADIUM
AND THEY FINALLY GOT IT!

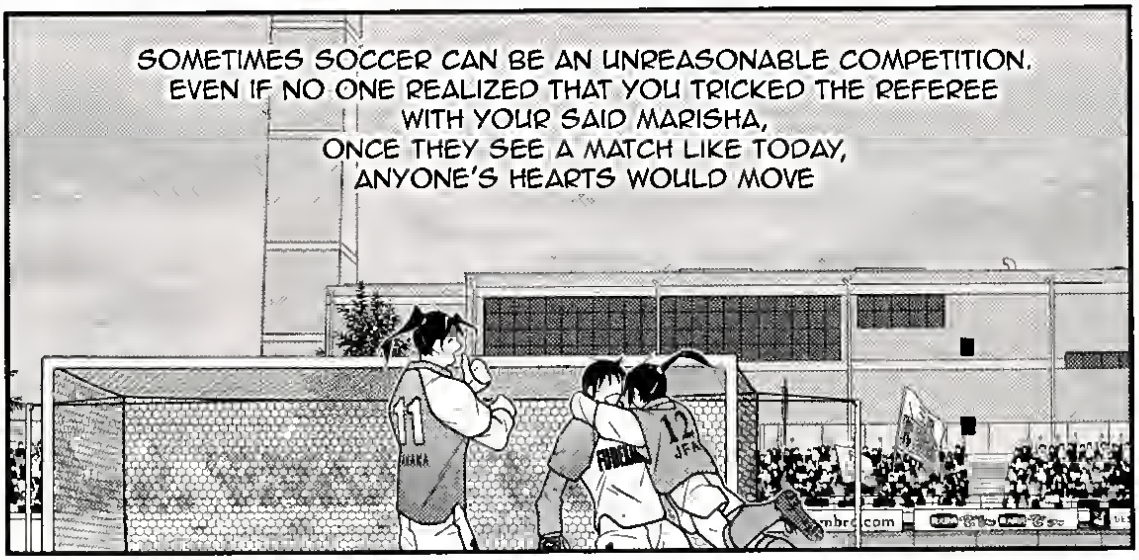

EVEN SO, WHAT A DRAMATIC GAME!
WITH THE RETURN OF ADMIRAL MISAWA AND AFTER THEY SCORED THREE GOALS, NO ONE EVER THOUGHT THAT
THEY'D MAKE SUCH A HUGE REVERSAL!
GIGANTES

MISAWA,
LET ME TELL YOU WHAT'S MISSING FROM YOUR SOCCER!
HUH?
GIGANTES
10
SUE
WELL, LET ME GUESS ...
A SMILE?
I DID MY SHARE OF SMILES TOO, YOU KNOW?
HMPH!
I'D PROBABLY SAY IF IT'S YESTERDAY.
SOMETHING THAT'S MISSING FROM YOU, NO, FROM MANY OTHER FAMOUS PLAYERS. THAT'S...
FINEKAGE

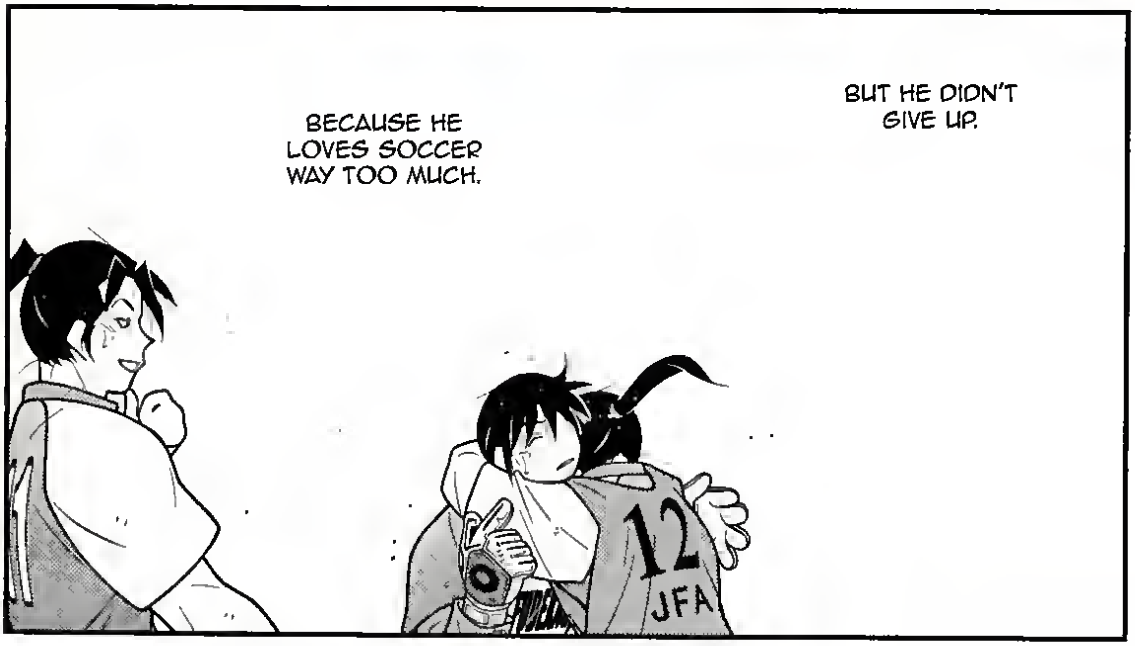
A TENACIOUS AND UNWAVERING
HEART.
FUDEKAGE
HEY, I DIDN'T GIVE UP UNTIL THE VERY END TOO, YOU KNOW.
HUH?
WELL ANYWAY, OUR TEAM DOES MISSING SOMETHING.
IT'S IGNACIO DA SILVA.


YOU DIDN'T GIVE UP BECAUSE YOU'RE WAITING FOR THAT MONSTER
TO SHOW UP?
NAH!
BUT I REALLY DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING. HE PROBABLY CHANGED THE FLOW.
JUST KIDDING!
NOT BECAUSE OF THAT.
BUT WE LOST
WELL
ONLY THAT FAR. ANYWAY, WHAT WAS THAT?
SO YOU DO GET IT.

IT'S BECAUSE HE LOVES SOCCER THAT HE NEVER GIVE UP.
IT'S NOT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T GIVE UP THAT HE WON,
FUDEKAGE

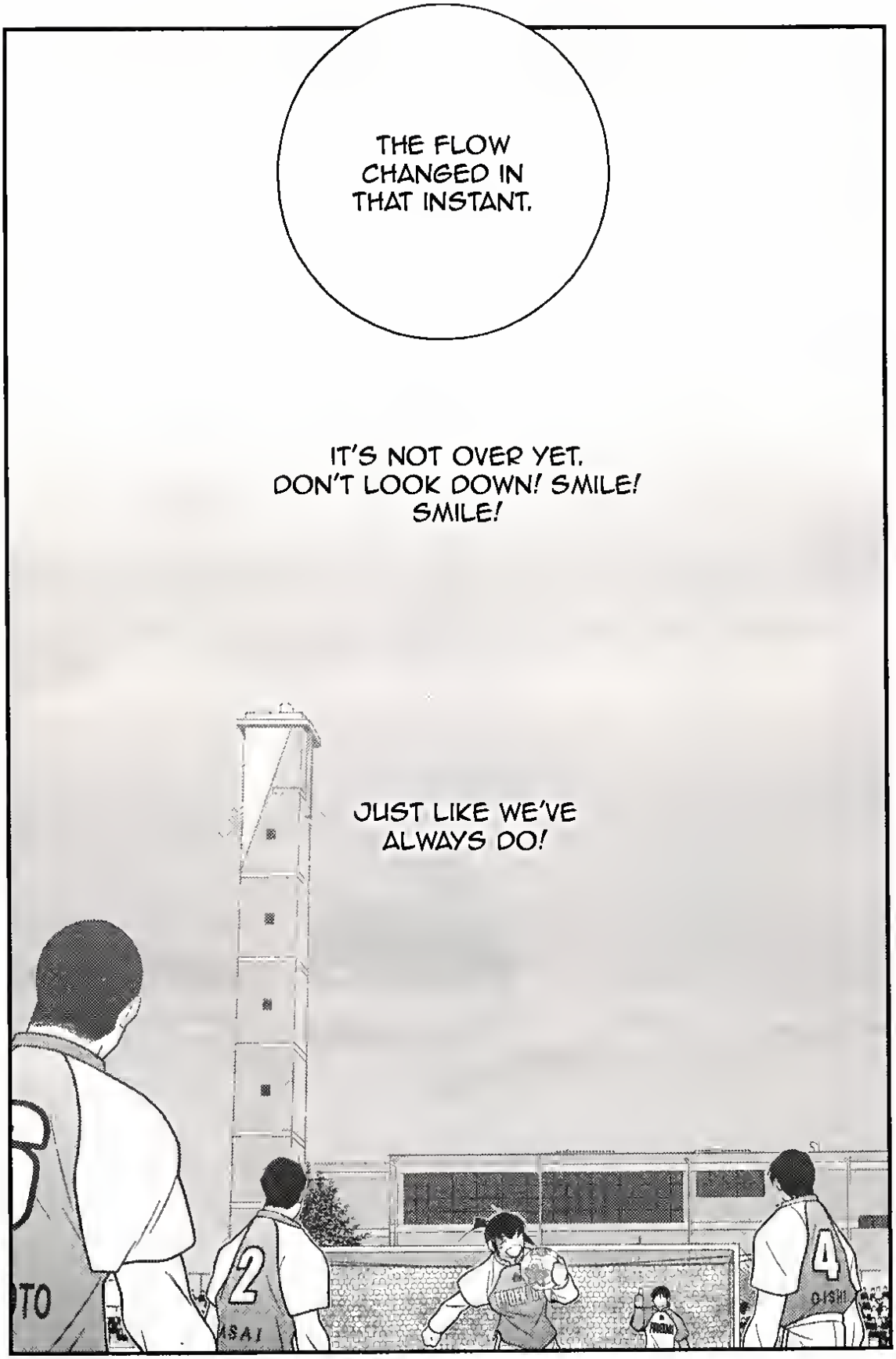

SOMETIMES SOCCER CAN BE AN UNREASONABLE COMPETITION.
EVEN IF NO ONE REALIZED THAT YOU TRICKED THE REFEREE
WITH YOUR SAID MARISHA,
ONCE THEY SEE A MATCH LIKE TODAY,
ANYONE'S HEARTS WOULD MOVE

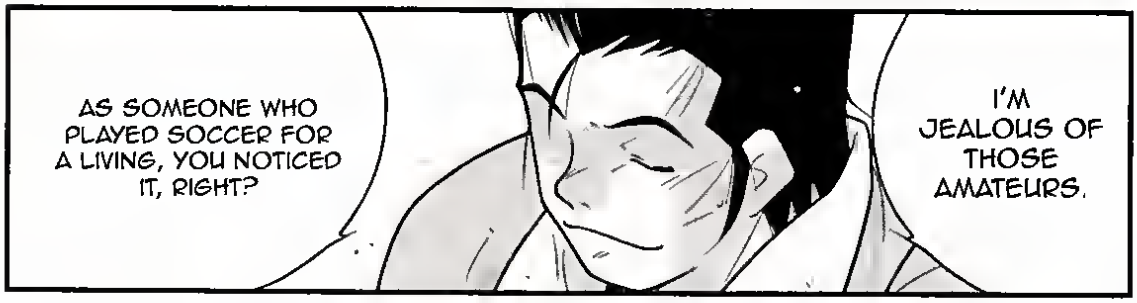
CERTAINLY.
WHEN I TOLD THEM TO NEVER COME TO HATE SOCCER, I WAVERED.
YEAH!
THEIR HEARTS WOULD CERTAINLY MOVE.

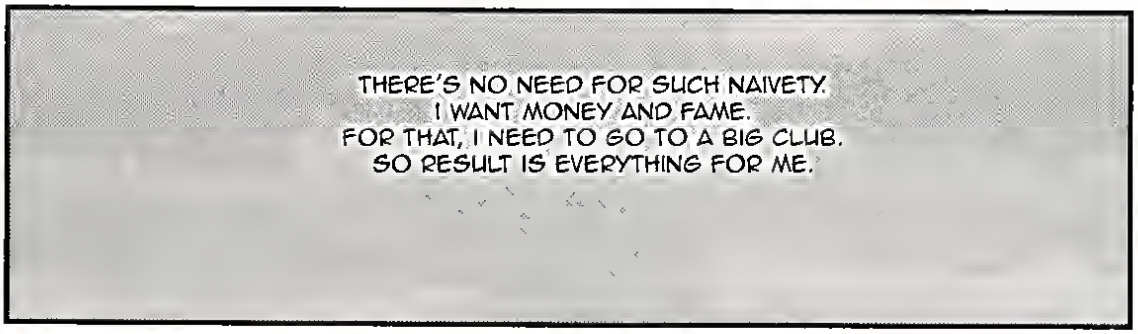

BECAUSE HE LOVES SOCCER WAY TOO MUCH.
BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE UP.
12
JFA

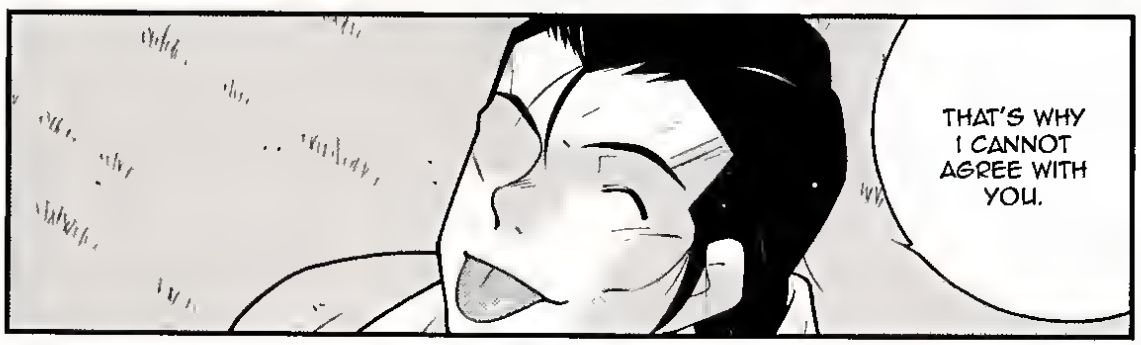
IS THE ONE CHANGING THE FLOW, BUT YOU'RE WRONG.
YOU MIGHT THINKING THAT IGNACIO DA SILVA

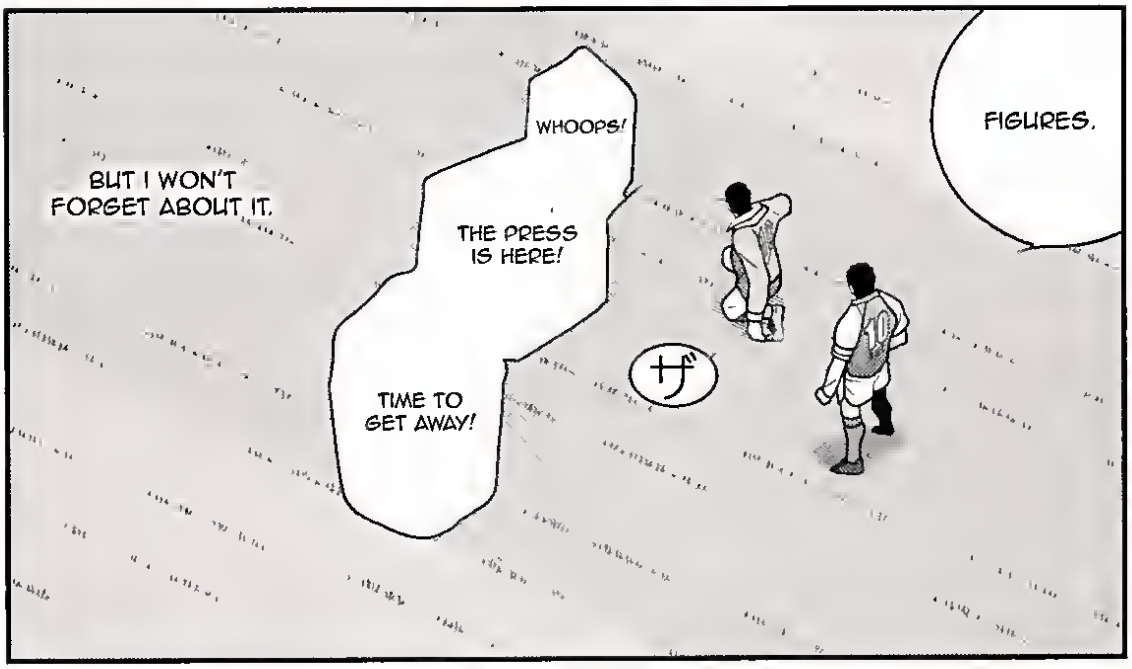
BUT THE MOMENT WHEN THE TWO OF THEM WERE SMILING,
WE WERE LOSING 3-1,

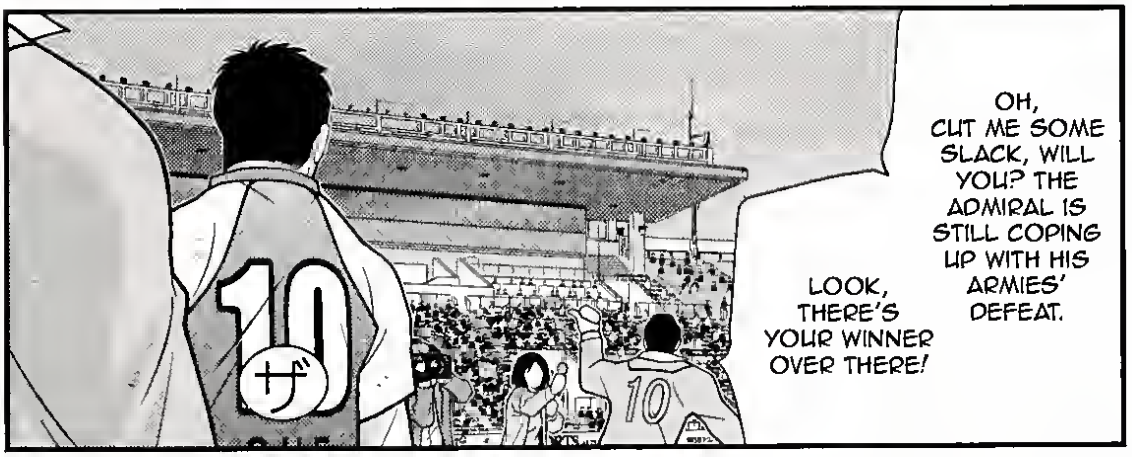

THE FLOW CHANGED IN THAT INSTANT.
IT'S NOT OVER YET. DON'T LOOK DOWN! SMILE! SMILE!
JUST LIKE WE'VE ALWAYS DO!
2
4

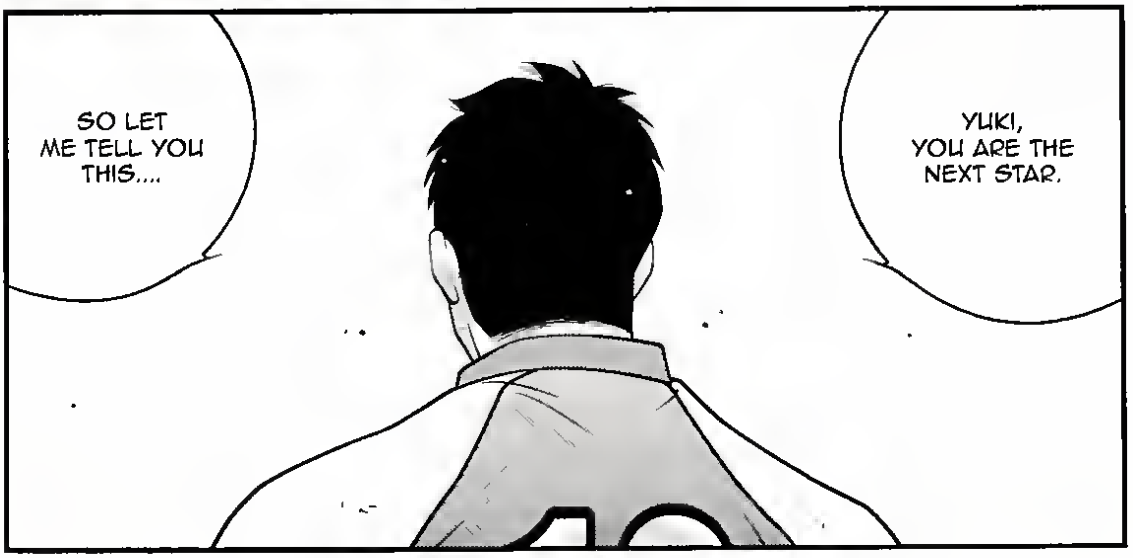

AS SOMEONE WHO PLAYED SOCCER FOR A LIVING, YOU NOTICED IT, RIGHT?
I'M JEALOUS OF THOSE AMATEURS.

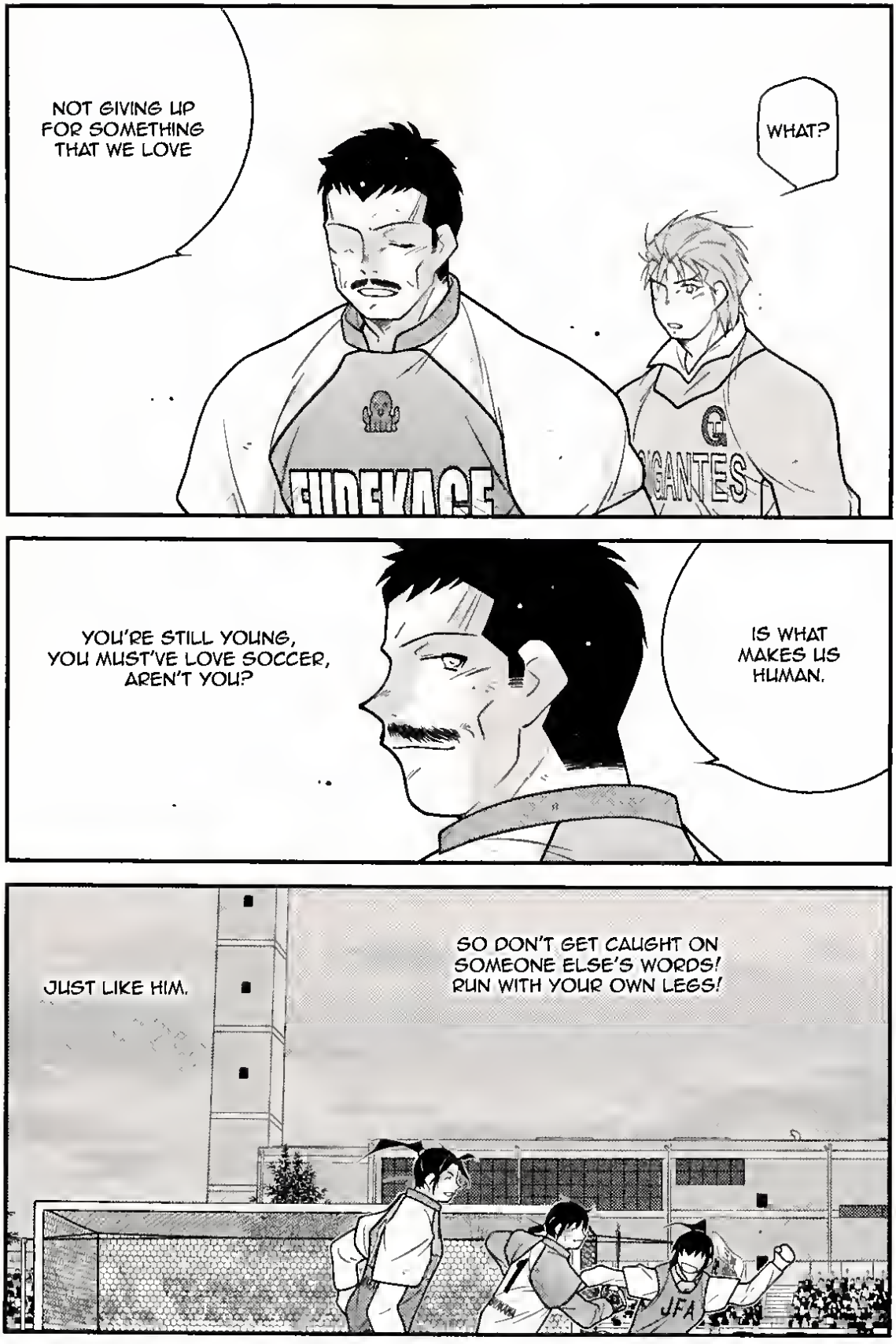

THERE'S NO NEED FOR SUCH NAIVETY.
I WANT MONEY AND FAME.
FOR THAT, I NEED TO GO TO A BIG CLUB.
SO RESULT IS EVERYTHING FOR ME.

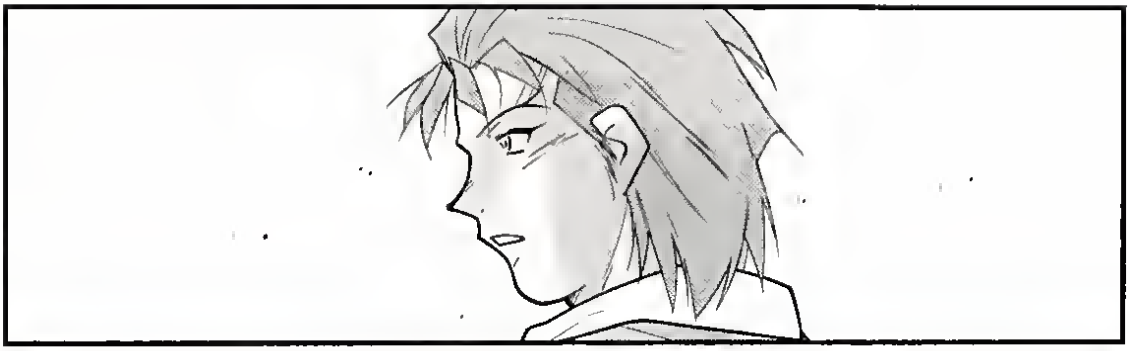

THAT'S WHY I CANNOT AGREE WITH YOU.


BUT I WON'T FORGET ABOUT IT.
WHOOPS!
THE PRESS IS HERE!
TIME TO GET AWAY!
FIGURES.

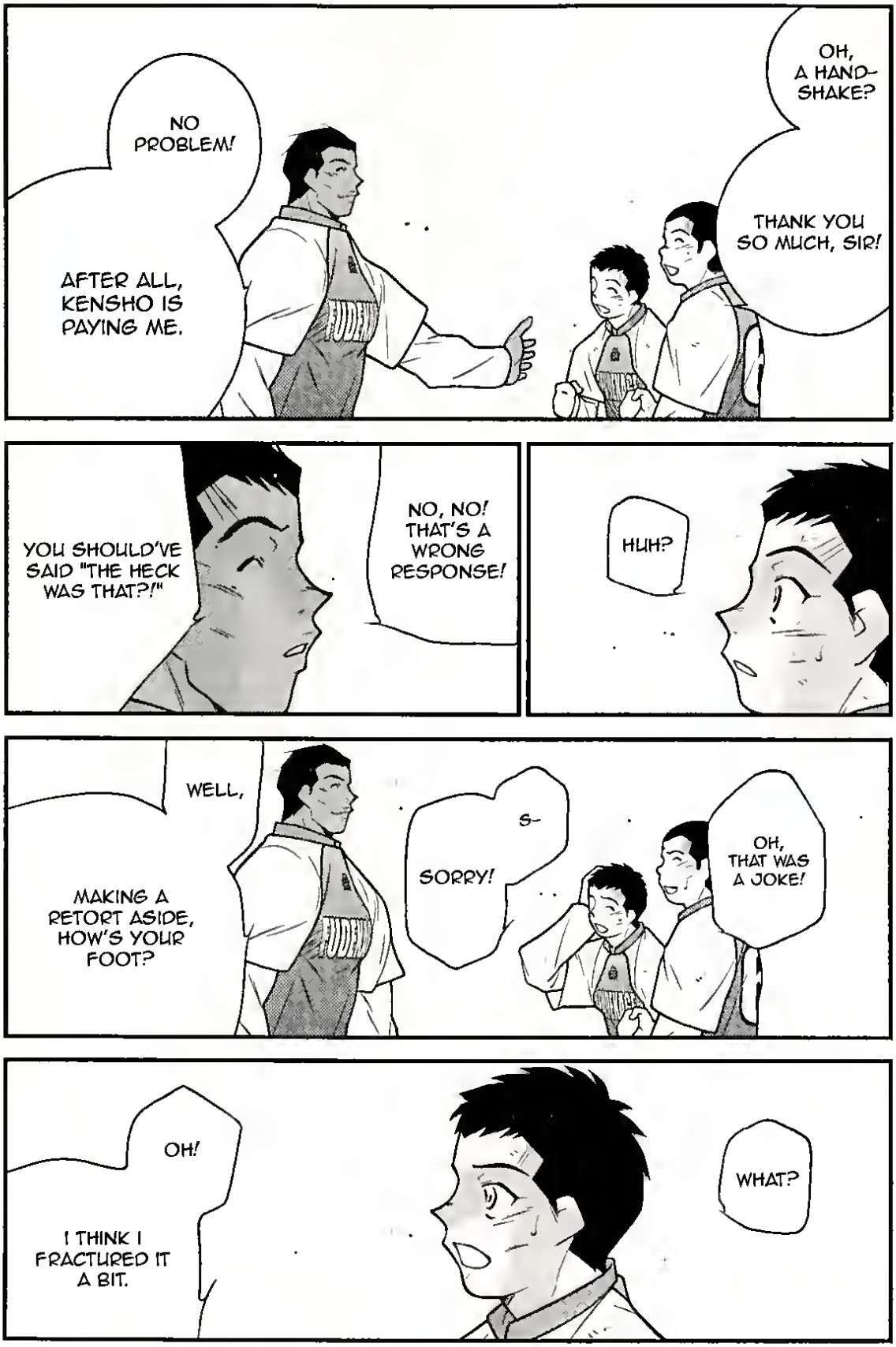

LOOK, THERE'S YOUR WINNER OVER THERE!
OH, CUT ME SOME SLACK, WILL YOU? THE ADMIRAL IS STILL COPING UP WITH HIS ARMIES' DEFEAT.


SO LET ME TELL YOU THIS....
YUKI, YOU ARE THE NEXT STAR.


NOT GIVING UP FOR SOMETHING THAT WE LOVE
WHAT?
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, YOU MUST'VE LOVE SOCCER, AREN'T YOU?
IS WHAT MAKES US HUMAN.
JUST LIKE HIM.
SO DON'T GET CAUGHT ON SOMEONE ELSE'S WORDS! RUN WITH YOUR OWN LEGS!

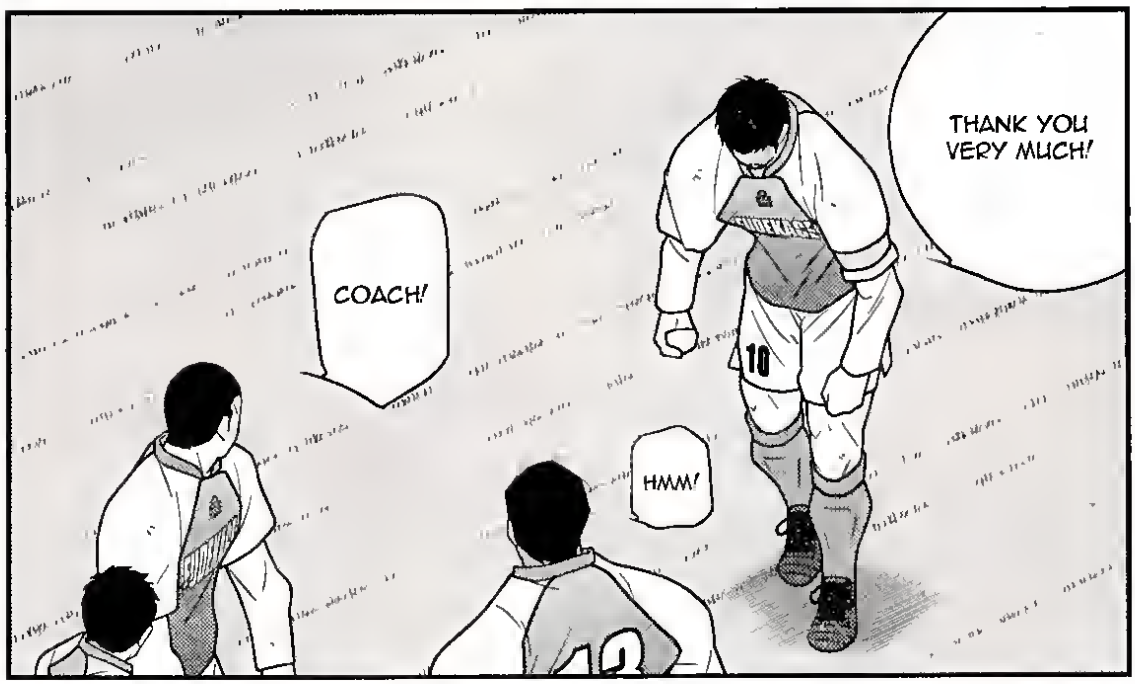


THANK YOU!
YES!
AH, SUE-SAN!
A MOMENT, PLEASE!


OH, A HAND-SHAKE?
THANK YOU SO MUCH, SIR!
NO PROBLEM!
AFTER ALL, KENSHO IS PAYING ME.
NO, NO! THAT'S A WRONG RESPONSE!
YOU SHOULD'VE SAID "THE HECK WAS THAT?!"
HUH?
WELL,
MAKING A RETORT ASIDE, HOW'S YOUR FOOT?
S-
SORRY!
OH, THAT WAS A JOKE!
OH!
I THINK I FRACTURED IT A BIT.
WHAT?

JUST GIVE IT SOME ICE!
YOU'LL BE GOOD FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY.

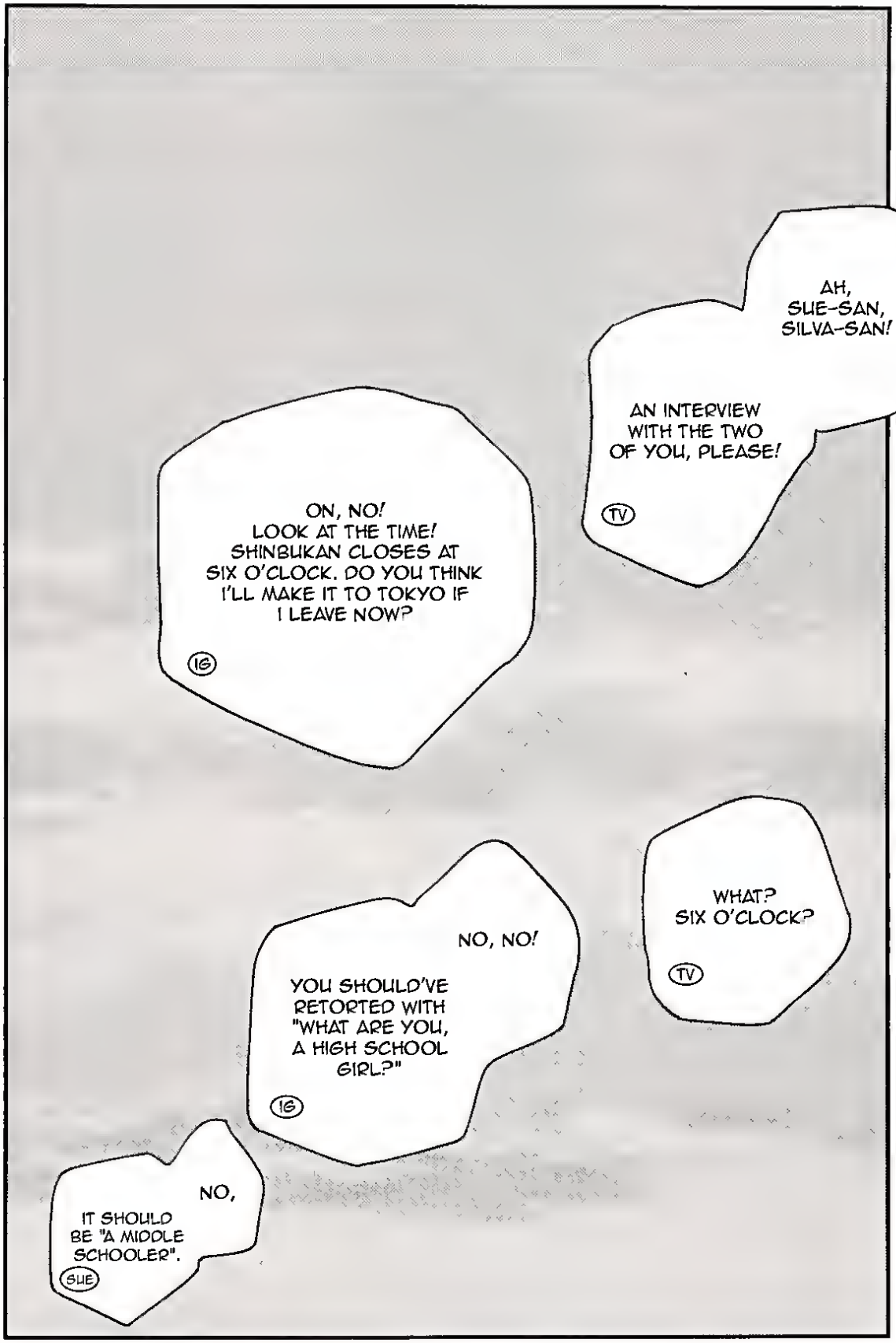
SO YOU'RE NOT PLAYING AT THE FINAL?
YES!
HUH?

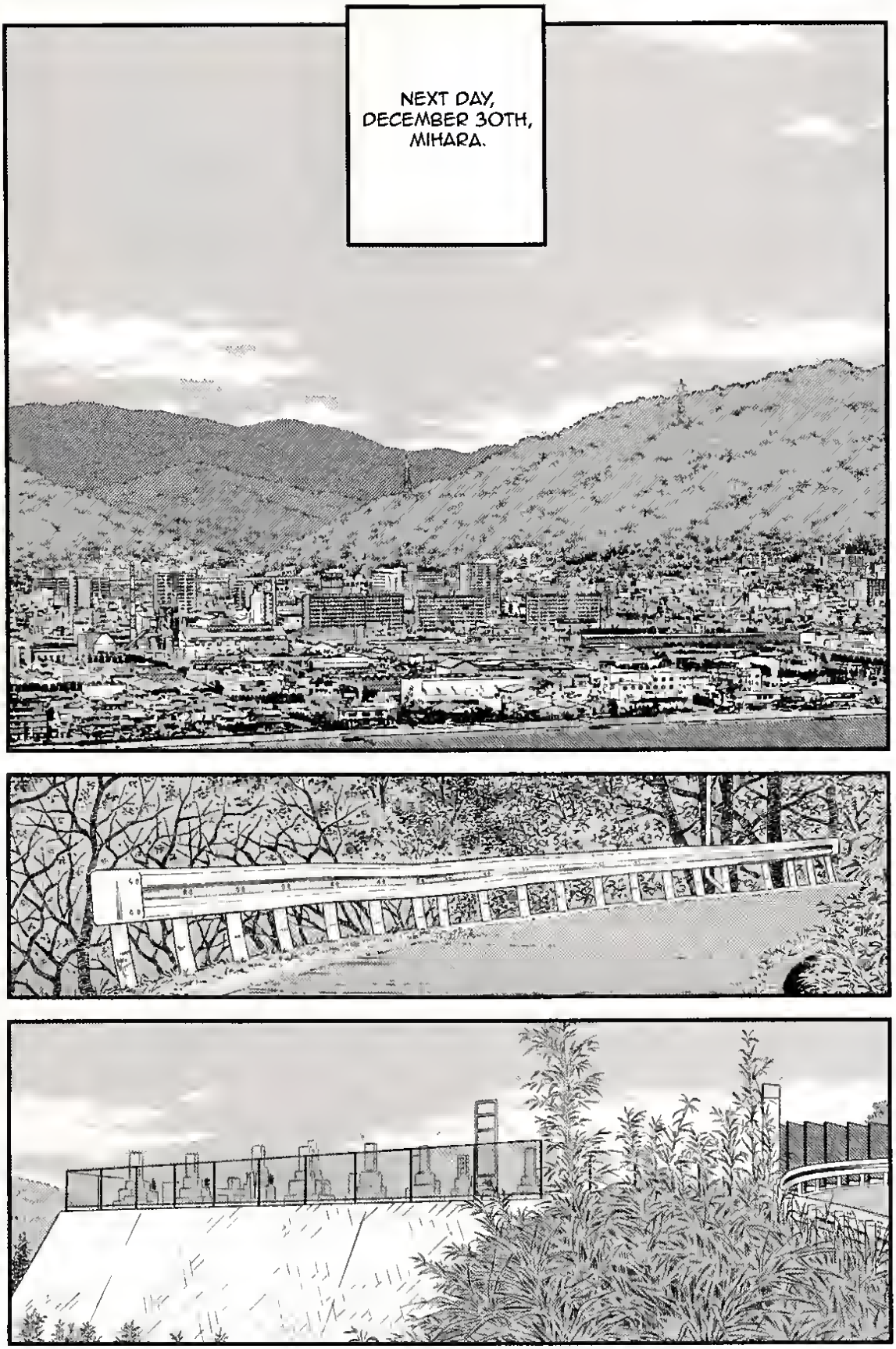

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
COACH!
HMM!
10

I ONLY TOUCHED THE BALL ONCE.
WELL,
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING AT ALL.

YES?
BUT IT WAS FUN.
SO THANKS!

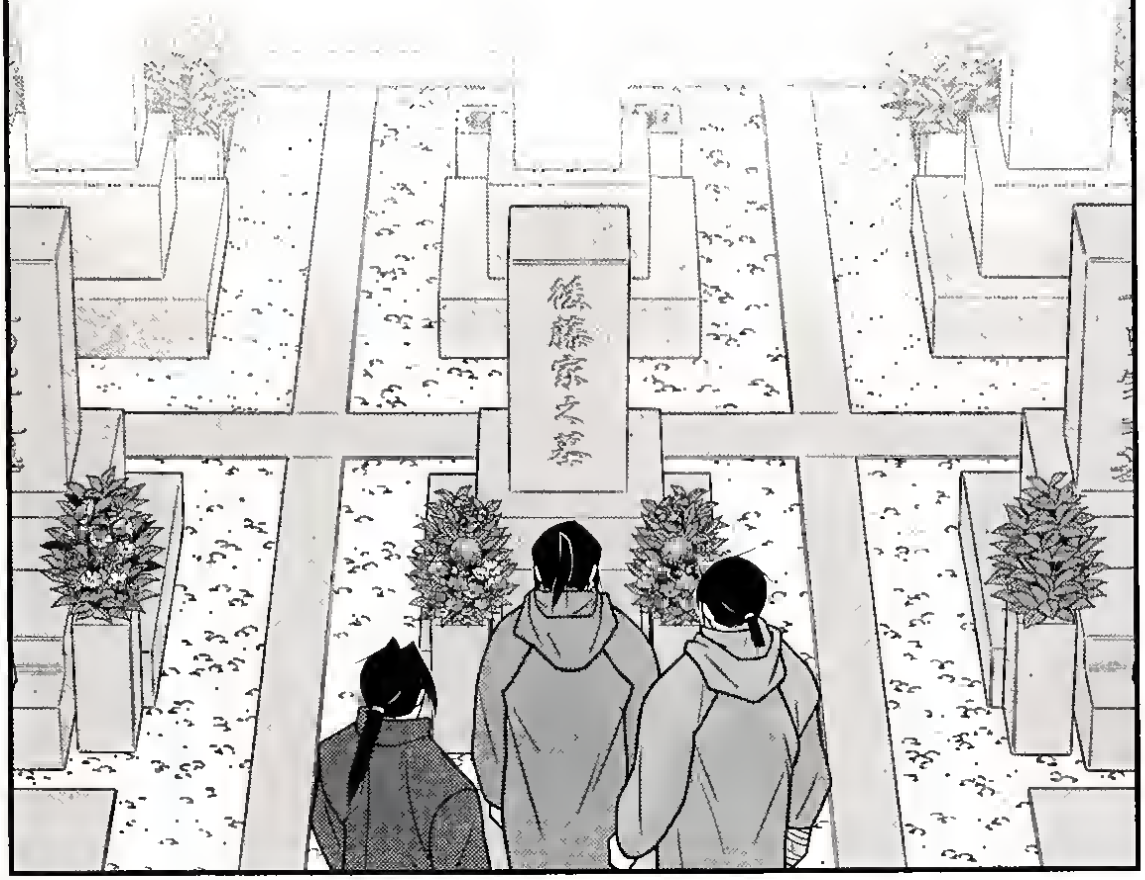
YES!


AH, SUE-SAN, SILVA-SAN!
AN INTERVIEW WITH THE TWO OF YOU, PLEASE!
TV
OH, NO! LOOK AT THE TIME! SHINBUKAN CLOSES AT SIX O'CLOCK. DO YOU THINK I'LL MAKE IT TO TOKYO IF I LEAVE NOW?
16
WHAT? SIX O'CLOCK?
TV
NO, NO! YOU SHOULD'VE RETORTED WITH "WHAT ARE YOU, A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL?"
16
NO, IT SHOULD BE "A MIDDLE SCHOOLER".
SUE

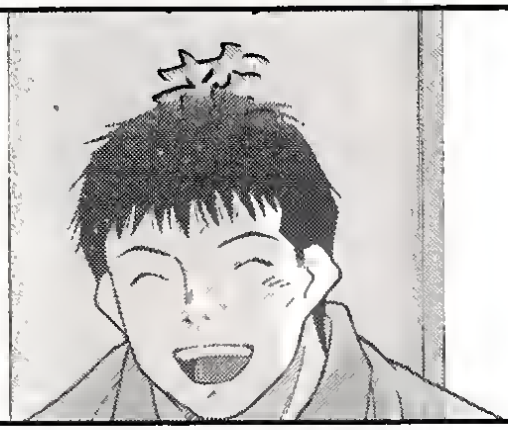

NEXT DAY,
DECEMBER 30TH,
MIHARA.

MASTER.
FATHER.
WE KEEP OUR PROMISE.
WE'VE COME TO VISIT YOU.

FATHER MASTER
WE'LL PLAT AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM AND WIN.
WE'RE GOING TOMORROW
AND WE'LL BE PLAYING AND SMILING.

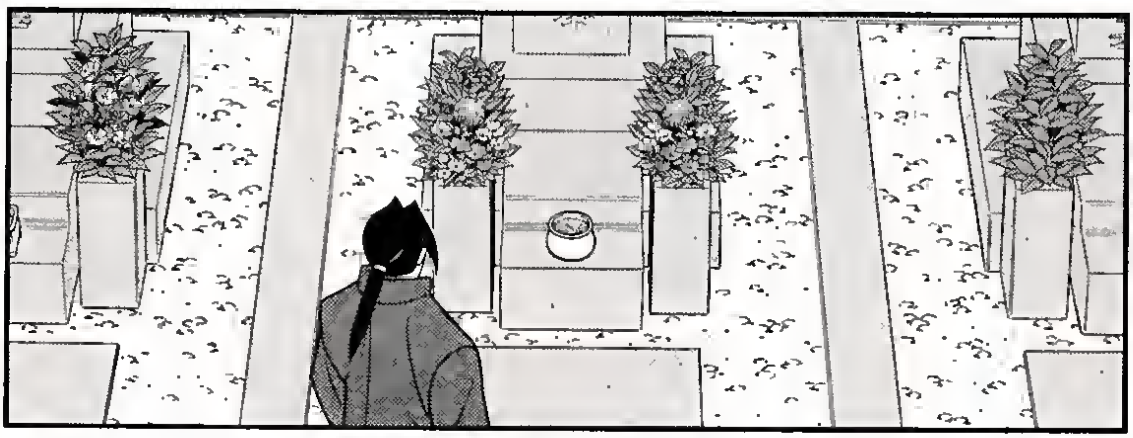


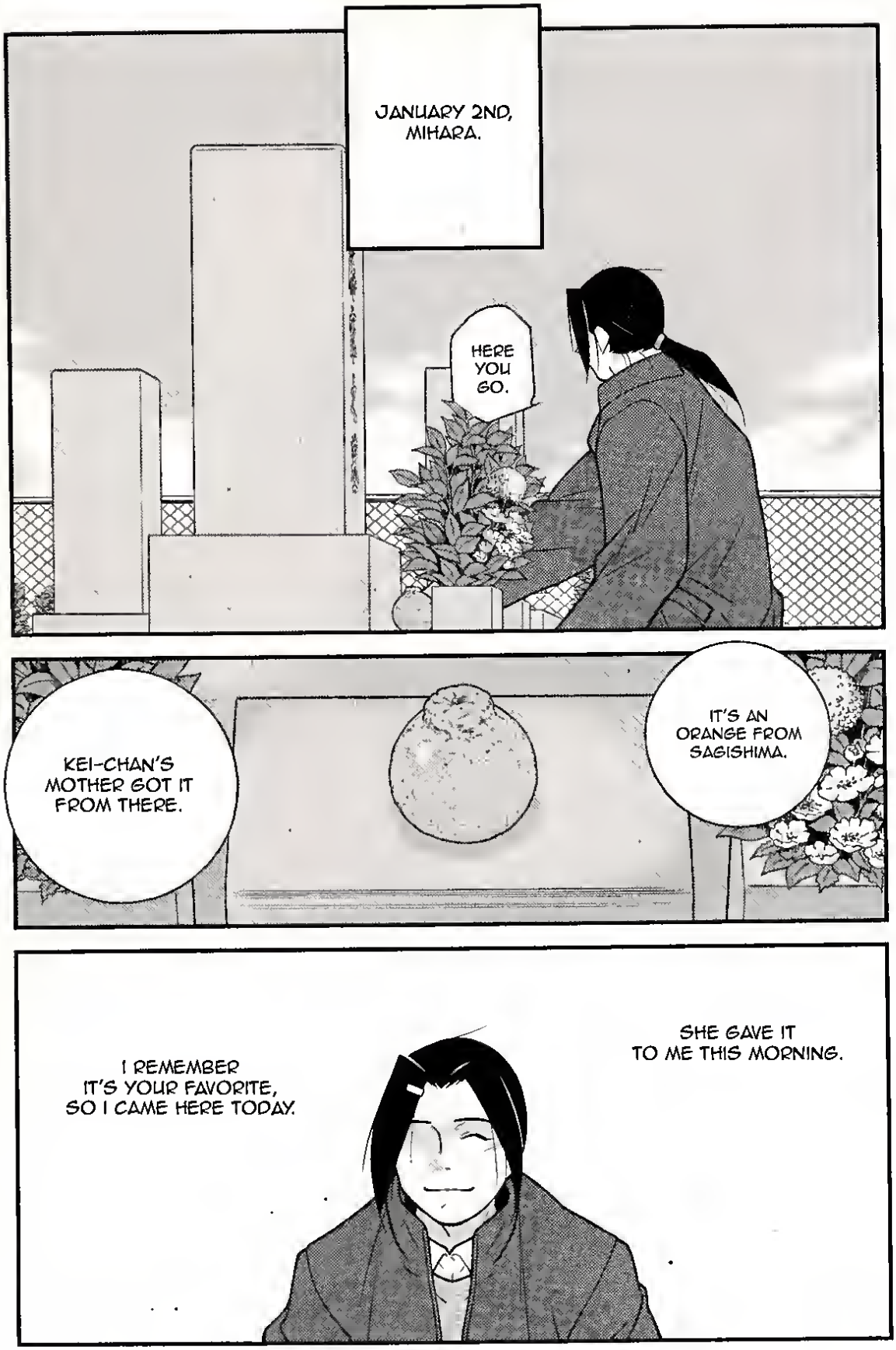
SMILE AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM!



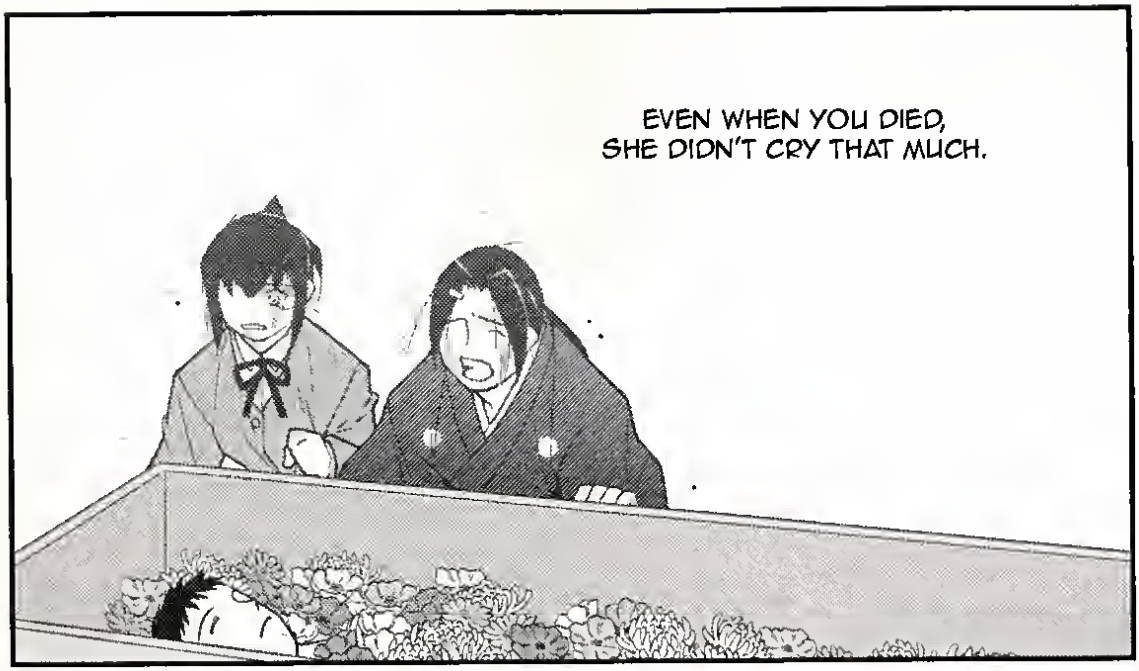
YEAH! YOU GO THERE AND SMILE!

SMILE!




JANUARY 2ND,
MIHARA.
HERE YOU GO.
KEI-CHAN'S MOTHER GOT IT FROM THERE.
IT'S AN ORANGE FROM SAGISHIMA.
I REMEMBER IT'S YOUR FAVORITE, SO I CAME HERE TODAY.
SHE GAVE IT TO ME THIS MORNING.

BUT I REALLY HAVE TO REPORT HOW IT WENT IN FRONT OF YOUR GRAVE, OR ELSE YOU WON'T CALM DOWN.
HOW WEIRD.... YESTERDAY I WAS HUGGING YOUR PHOTO TIGHTLY WHEN WATCHING THE FINAL GAME.
BUT SHE SAID I SHOULD BE THE ONE GIVING THE FULL DETAIL.
I THOUGHT SATSUKA SHOULD GIVE YOU THE REPORT,
I'VE SEEN HER CRY THAT MUCH.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME


EVEN WHEN YOU DIED,
SHE DIDN'T CRY THAT MUCH.

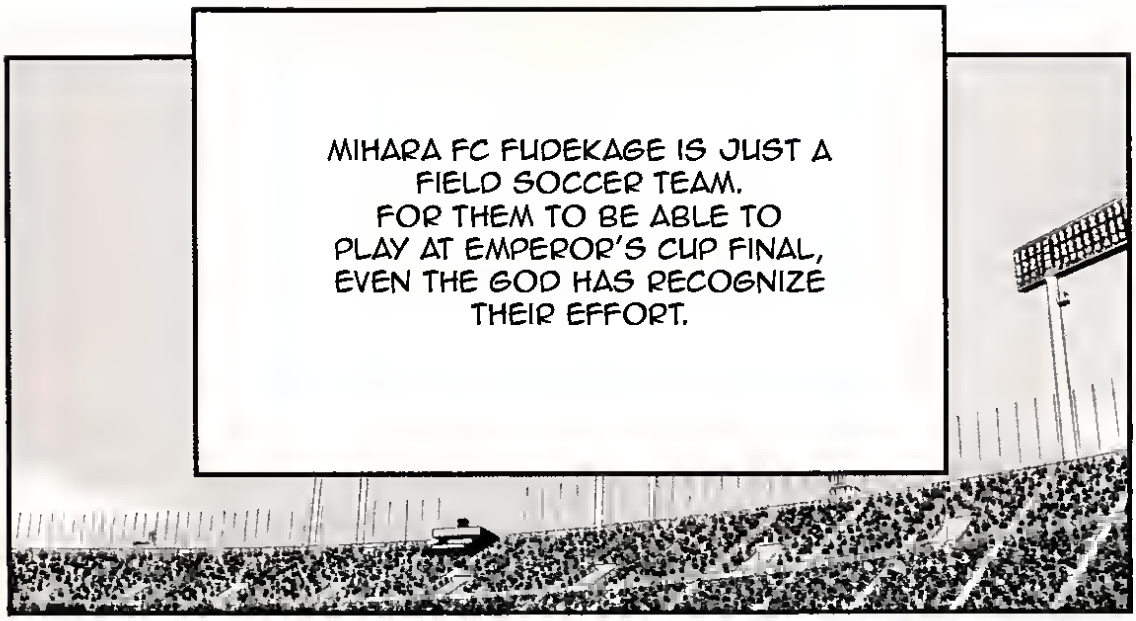
WAS LIKE
A BONUS ROUND
FOR THEM.
THAT
FINAL GAME

THAT'S WHY MID-GAME,
THEY'RE TRULY LAUGHING
AND HAVING FUN.

A DAY BEFORE, JANUARY 1ST, NATIONAL STADIUM.
THEIR OPPONENT FOR EMPEROR'S CUP FINAL ARE J-LEAGUE CHAMPION, NAGOYA DRAGOON.
EMPEROR'S CUP
天皇杯全日本サッカー選手権大会
名古屋ドラグーン
三原FCふでかげ
0 1st 0
2nd
WITH A RECORD OF THIRTEEN CONSECUTIVE WINS SINCE PREFECTURE QUALIFIER,
AND AN AMATEUR TEAM

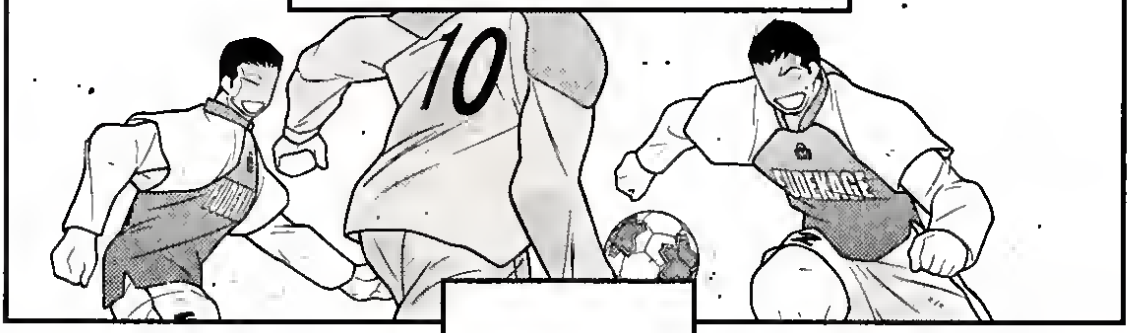
THEY ARE FIELD SOCCER TEAM MIHARA FC FUDEKAGE.
9
FUDEKAGE
HOWEVER,
THEY'RE STRUGGLING AGAINST J-LEAGUE CHAMPION AS EXPECTED.
KOBAT
6
DRAGOON
AS A J-LEAGUE CHAMPION, THEIR STRENGTHS ARE ON ANOTHER LEVEL

DRAGOON HAS THE BALL FOR MORE THEN 80% OF THE GAME.
THEY KEEP ATTACKING FUDEKAGE.
ALSO, IGNACIO DA SILVA WHO MADE A SUDDEN APPEARANCE DURING SEMI FINAL
ISN'T EVEN ON THE BENCH.
IN OTHER WORDS, HE WON'T BE MAKING ANOTHER SURPRISE APPEARANCE LIKE HE DID THE OTHER DAY.
NO, HE CAN BE SEEN AT SUPPORTER SEAT. HE'S NOT REGISTERED AS A PLAYING MEMBER.

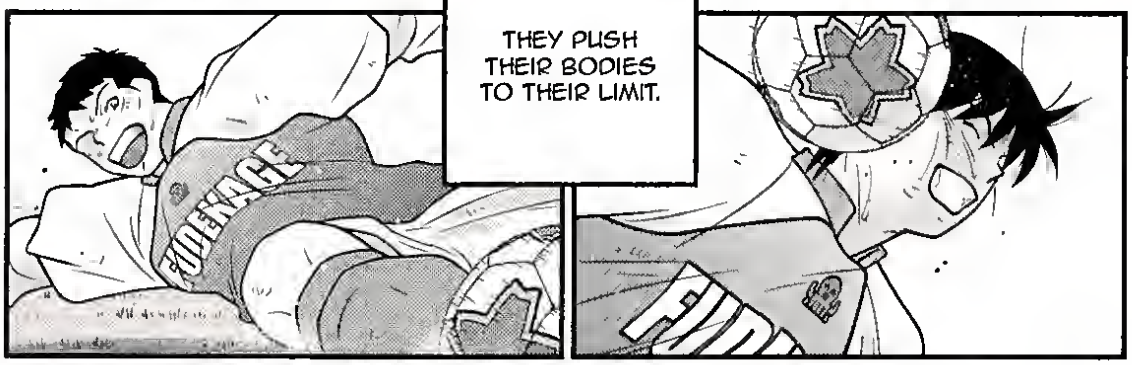

MIHARA FC FUDEKAGE IS JUST A FIELD SOCCER TEAM. FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO PLAY AT EMPEROR'S CUP FINAL, EVEN THE GOD HAS RECOGNIZE THEIR EFFORT.

DRAGOON
UNTIL NOW THEY HAVEN'T BEEN SO OVERWHELMED BY OTHER TEAM.

AFTER THEIR DEFENSE WERE PENETRATED, THE DEFENDERS LOWERED THEIR LINE AND CHALLENGED THEM AGGRESSIVELY.

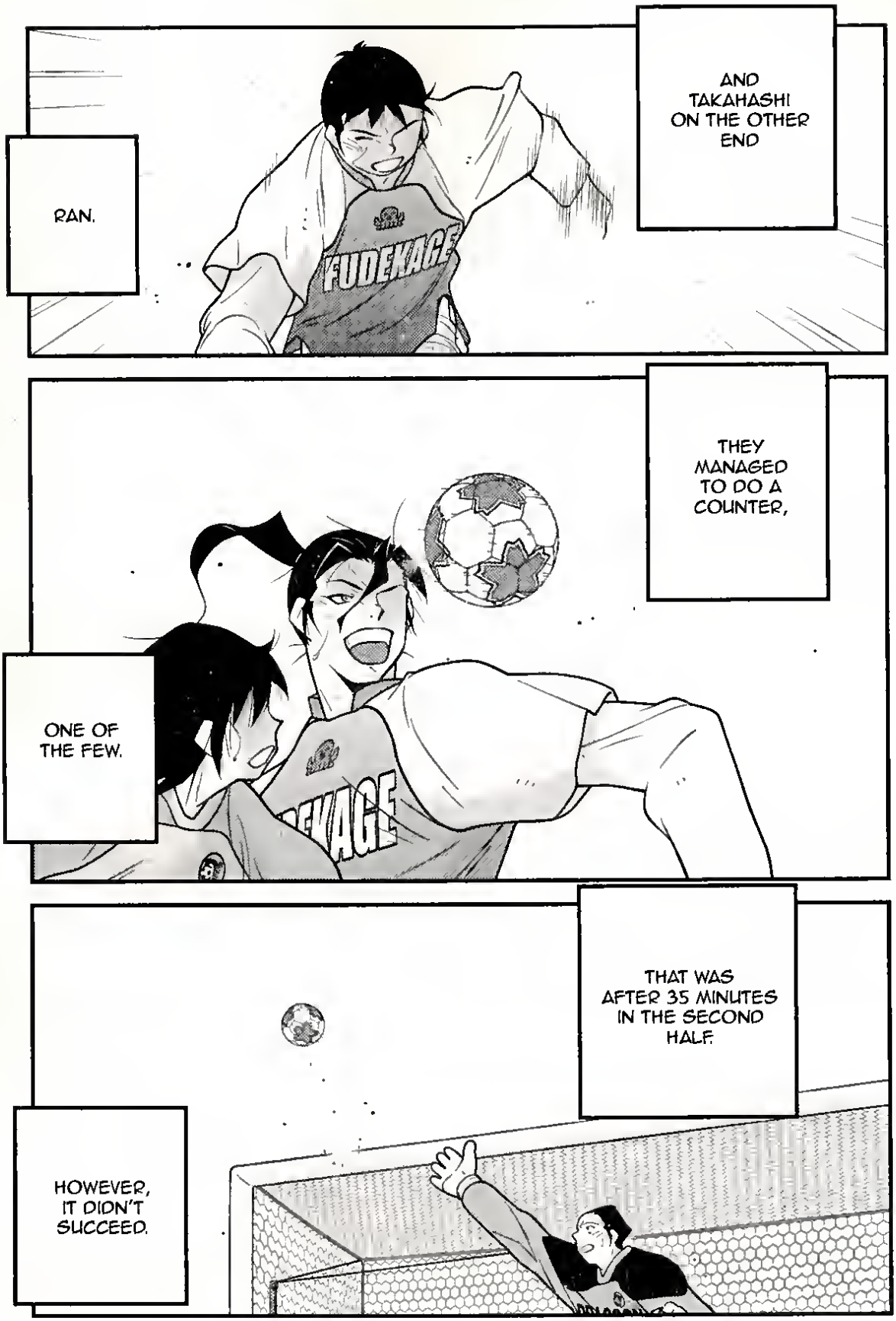


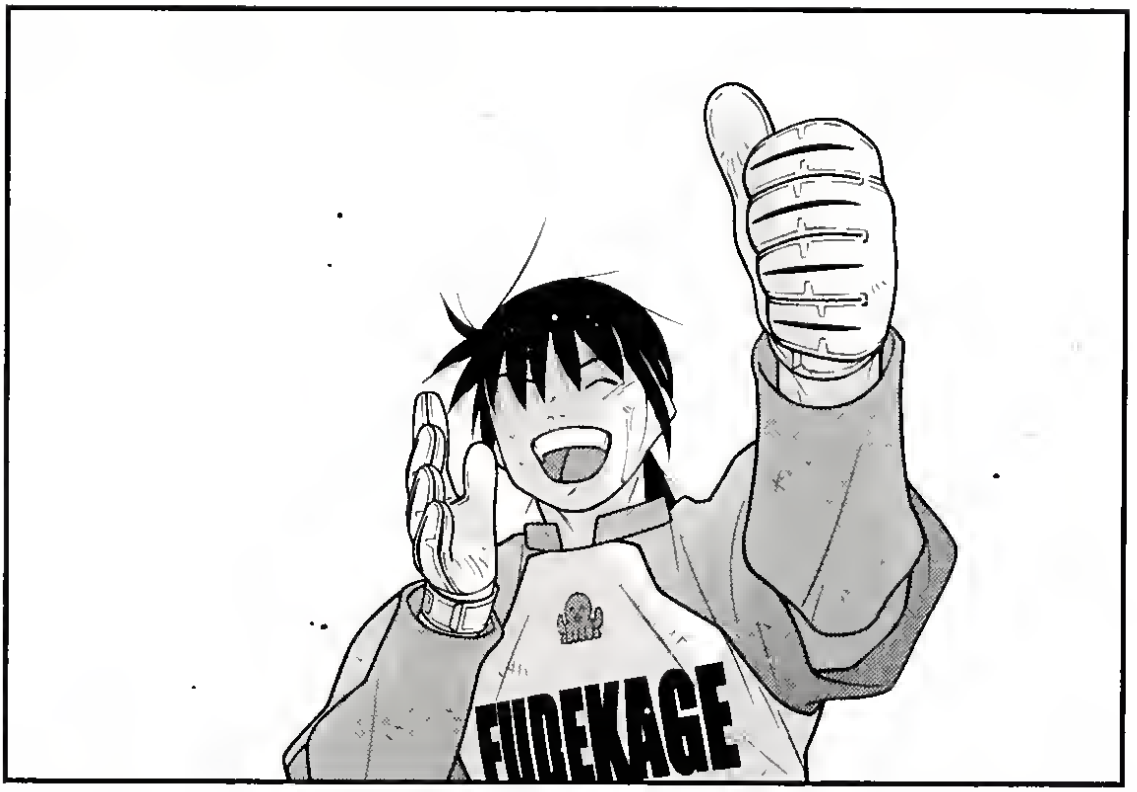
THEY PUSH THEIR BODIES TO THEIR LIMIT.



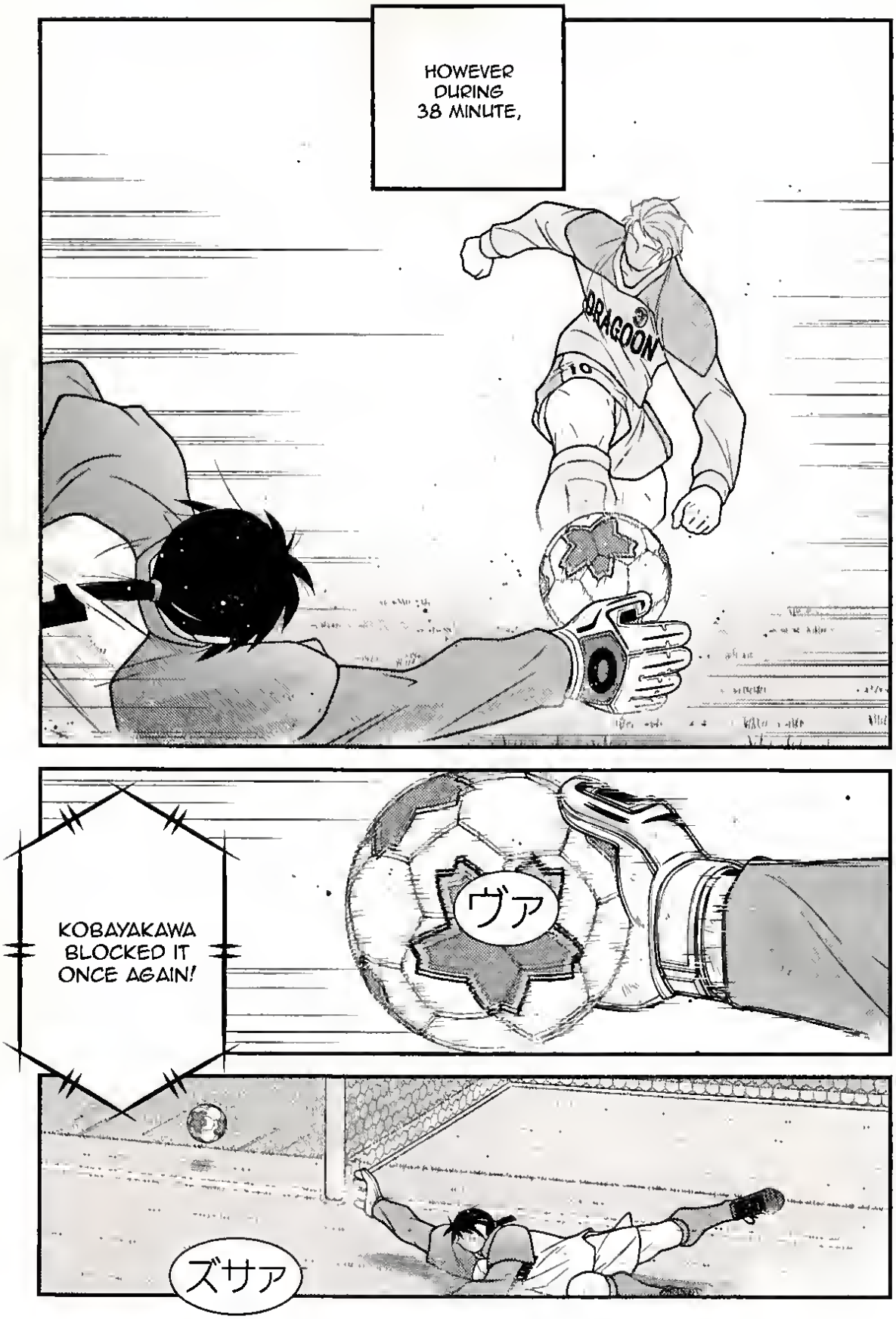
MAEDA WHOSE FOOT WAS INJURED TOOK A PAINKILLER

AND CHASED AFTER THE BALL.


RAN.
AND TAKAHASHI ON THE OTHER END
FUDEKAGE
THEY MANAGED TO DO A COUNTER,
ONE OF THE FEW.
THAT WAS AFTER 35 MINUTES IN THE SECOND HALF.
HOWEVER, IT DIDN'T SUCCEED.



THOSE TWELVE FUDEKAGES, THEY WERE STILL SMILING NO MATTER HOW THE GAME WENT.


HOWEVER DURING 38 MINUTE,
DRAGOON
10
KOBAYAKAWA BLOCKED IT ONCE AGAIN!
ヴァ
ズサァ

KENSHO!
NICE SAVE,
ザワ
K-
KEN?
BUT, WHAT'S WRONG?
KOBAYAKAWA IS NOT MOVING.
KEN... SHO...?

HUH?
KOBAYAKAWA-KUN?
IS IT HIS RIGHT HAND?
ハ゛
KENSHO!

WE JUST GOT THE INFORMATION THAT HIS RIGHT HAND WAS INJURED DURING SEMI FINAL.
BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE THAT IMPRESSION IN THE FINAL. NOT WITH THOSE FINE SAVES.
NOW THAT YOU MENTIONED IT, HE ALSO DID A LOT OF CATCHES IN THE FIRST HALF.
HIS PERFORMANCE HAD INCREASED SINCE THE FIRST HALF.
三原
がんばれ FCふでかげがんばれ
FC FUI
THIS WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE AN IMPACT FOR THEM.
ARE YOU OKAY?
NORMALLY, THEY'D SWITCH HIM. BUT OF COURSE FUDEKAGE DOESN'T ANY OTHER GOAL KEEPER WHO COULD REPLACE HIM.

HEHE!
I'M OKAY!
YOU IDIOT!
BULLSHIT! YOU'RE IN PAIN!
HIDEKAGE
LIKE YOU'D MAKE THAT FACE IF IT'S ONLY A BIT!
OH COME ON, KEI-CHAN, IT ONLY HURTS A BIT.

YOU MIGHT'VE TAKEN A PAINKILLER LIKE MAEDA DID
AND WRAPPED IT IN BANDAGES,
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU WON'T FELL PAIN!
WE'RE SWITCHING!
BUT I'M REALLY,
COACH!
SATSUKA? NO WAY!
SWITCH? WITH WHOM?

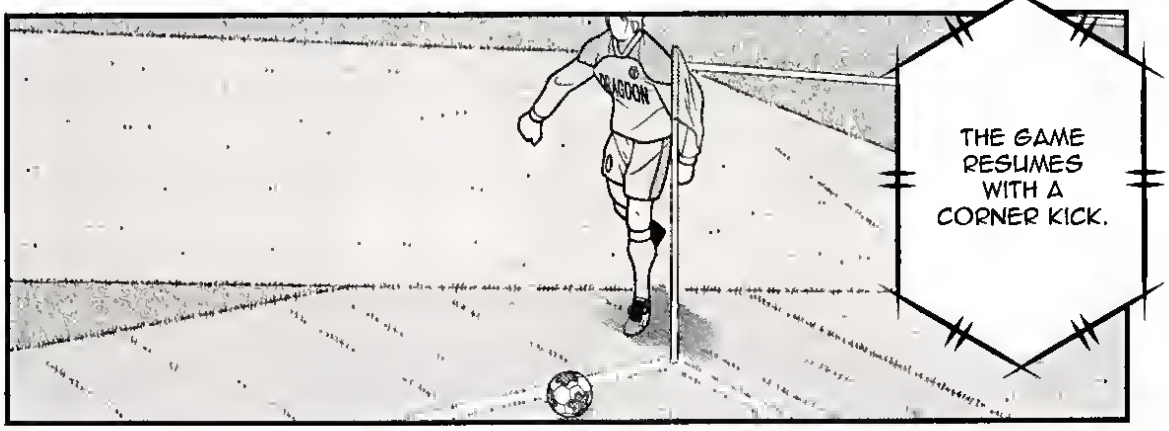
KEN-SHO!
HEY!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
EVEN IF YOU SWITCHED WITH SHIMA,
AS A KEEPER ....
THE HECK WAS THAT?!
スカッ
SERIOUSLY?
WHAT?
YOU'RE SWITCHING WITH ME!
TSUNETO ....

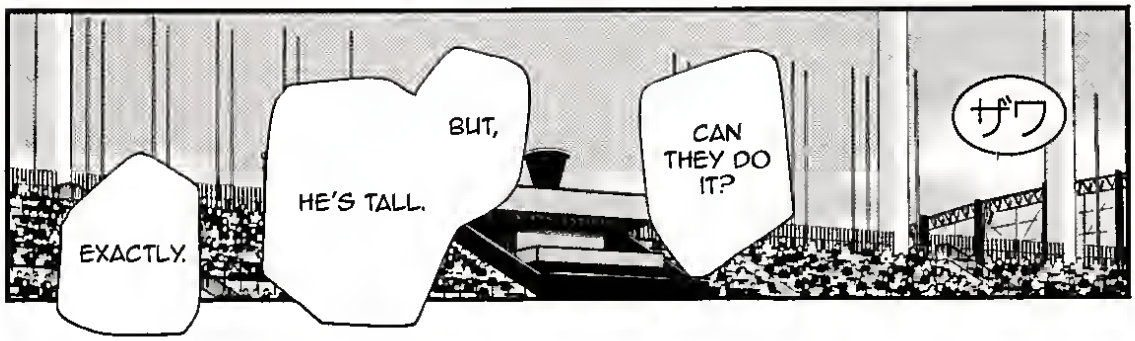
I CAN STILL DO CATCH AND RECEIVE.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE A FORMER VOLLEY PLAYER!
JUST LIKE ME WHEN I WAS AT THE VOLLEY CLUB.
YOU MIGHT WON'T BE ABLE TO GET YOUR RIGHT HAND BACK IF YOU DO ANY MORE THAN THIS.
LET'S SWITCH!
AND YOU'RE THE BEST FIELD PLAYER ON OUR TEAM.
YOU MIGHT ONLY HAVE ONE HAND. BUT YOU STILL HAVE BOTH OF YOUR LEGS.

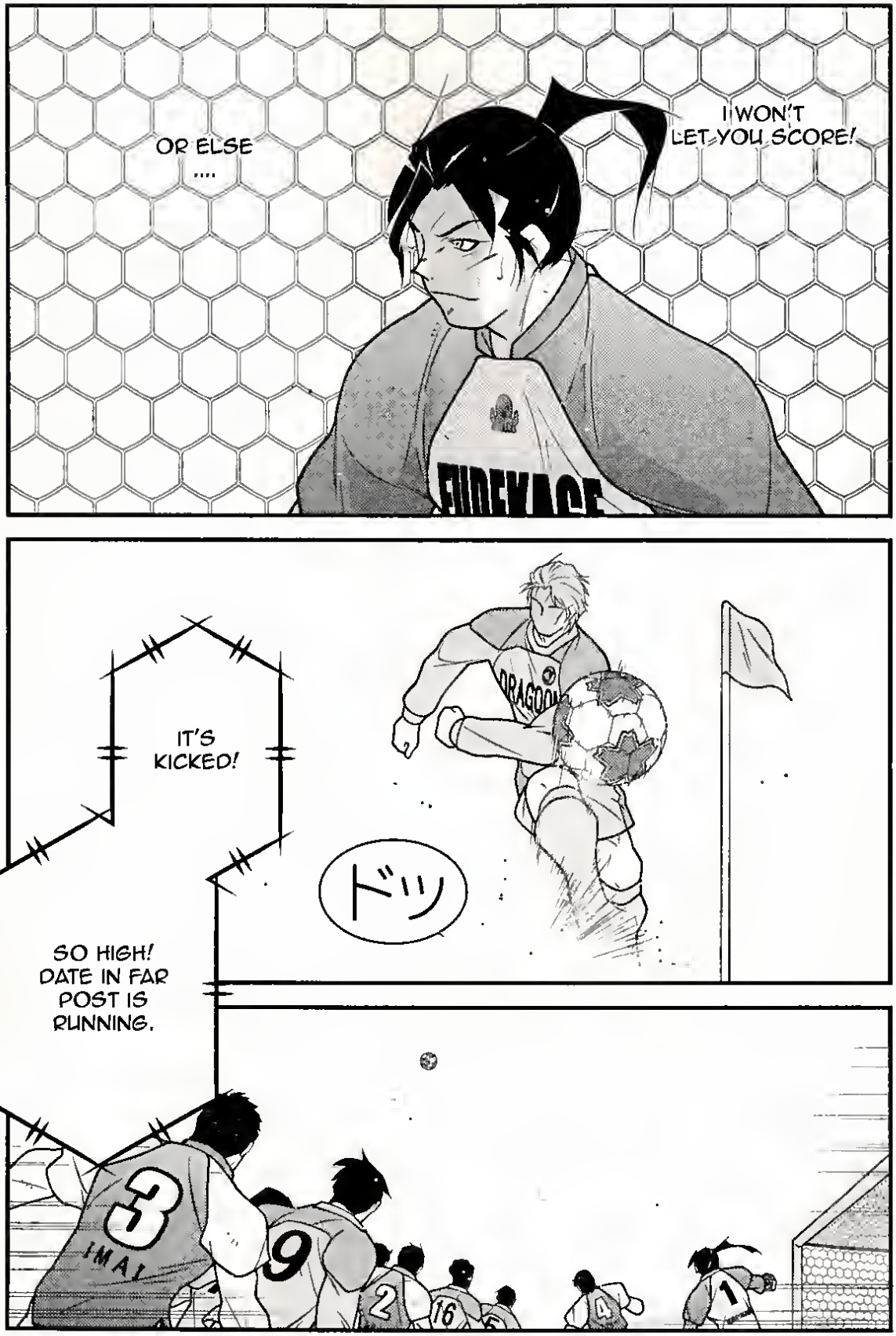
WHAT?
OKAY, TSUNETO!
YOU'LL BE OUR KEEPER!
WHAT? THEY'RE EXCHANGING UNIFORMS?
REFEREE, WE'RE SWITCHING KEEPER AND FORWARD.
OH, THEY'RE SWITCHING KEEPER KOBAYAKAWA AND FORWARD TSUNETO'S POSITIONS.
OH YEAH!
ダボ
ピチ
1
KOBAYAK

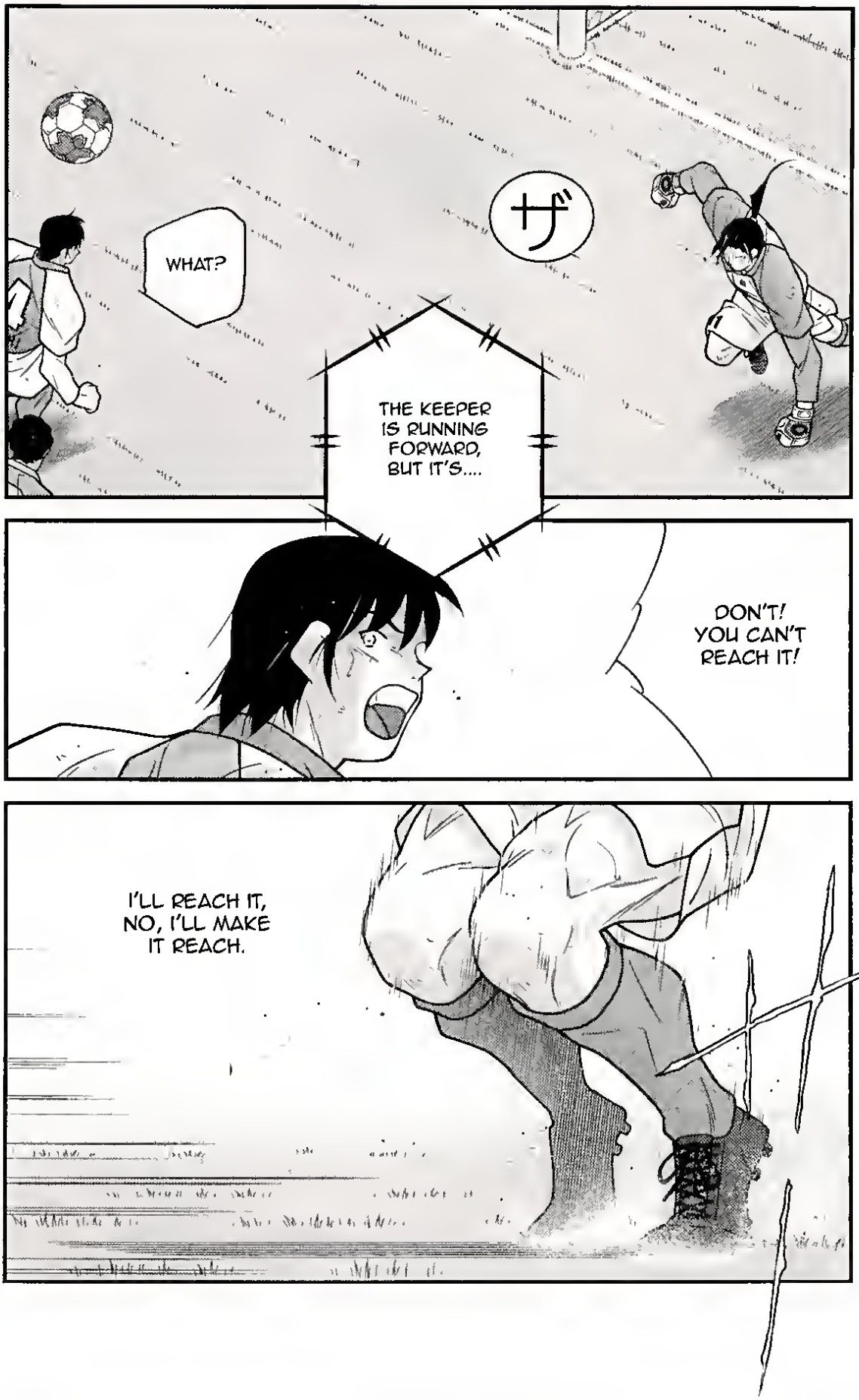
ザ
SATSUKA, WITNESS ME!
I'LL DO A GREAT SAVE!

YEAH!
I'LL LAUGH AT YOU IF YOU DON'T!
Y-

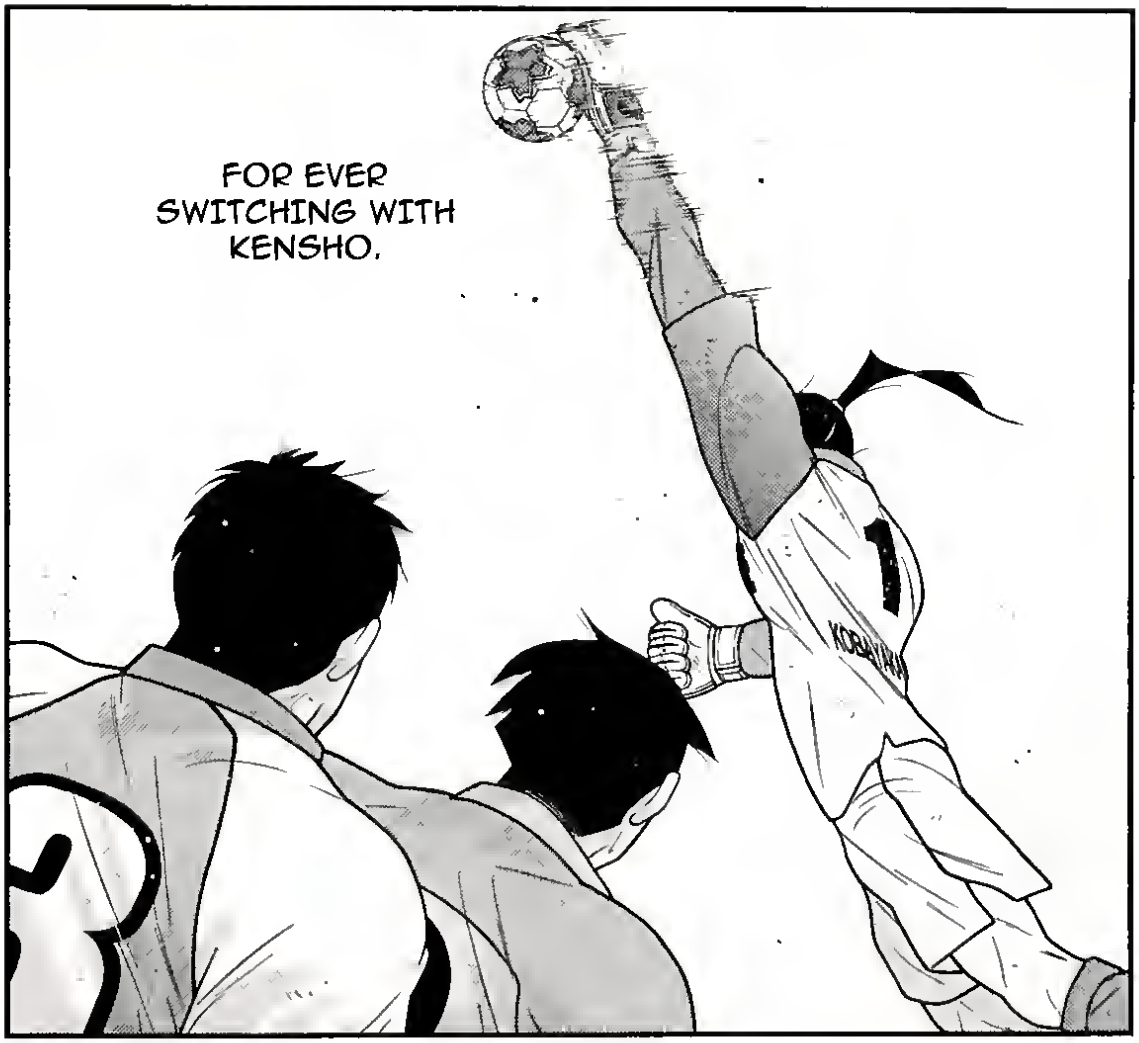

THE GAME RESUMES WITH A CORNER KICK.

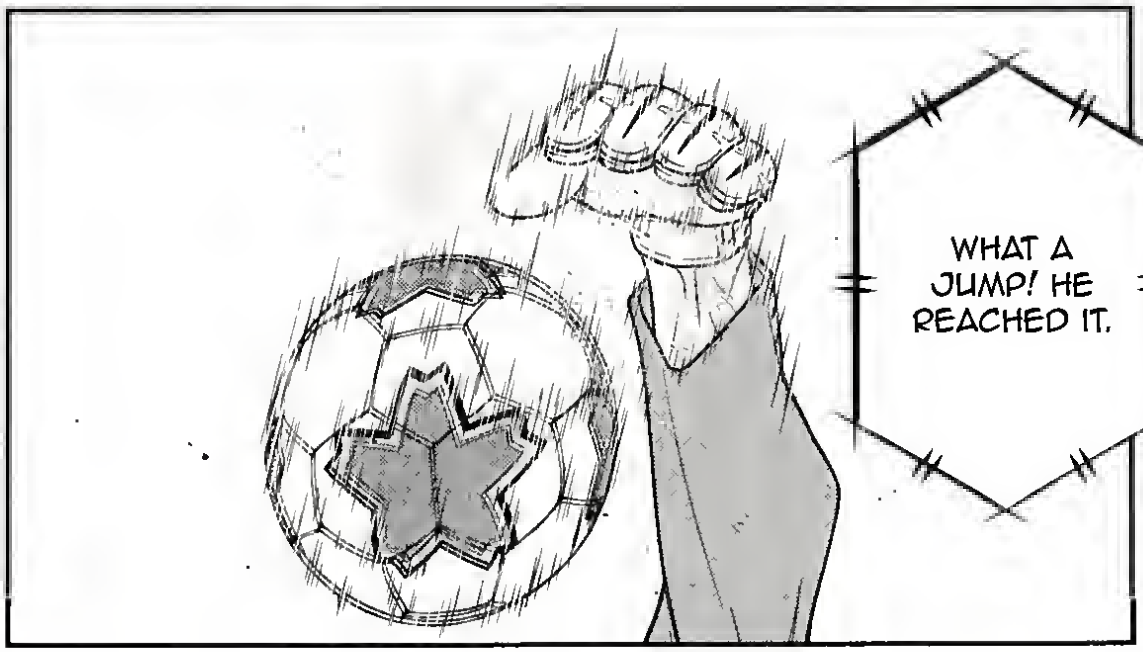

ザワ
CAN THEY DO IT?
BUT, HE'S TALL.
EXACTLY.


I WON'T LET YOU SCORE!
OR ELSE ....
IT'S KICKED!
ドッ
SO HIGH! DATE IN FAR POST IS RUNNING.
IMAI

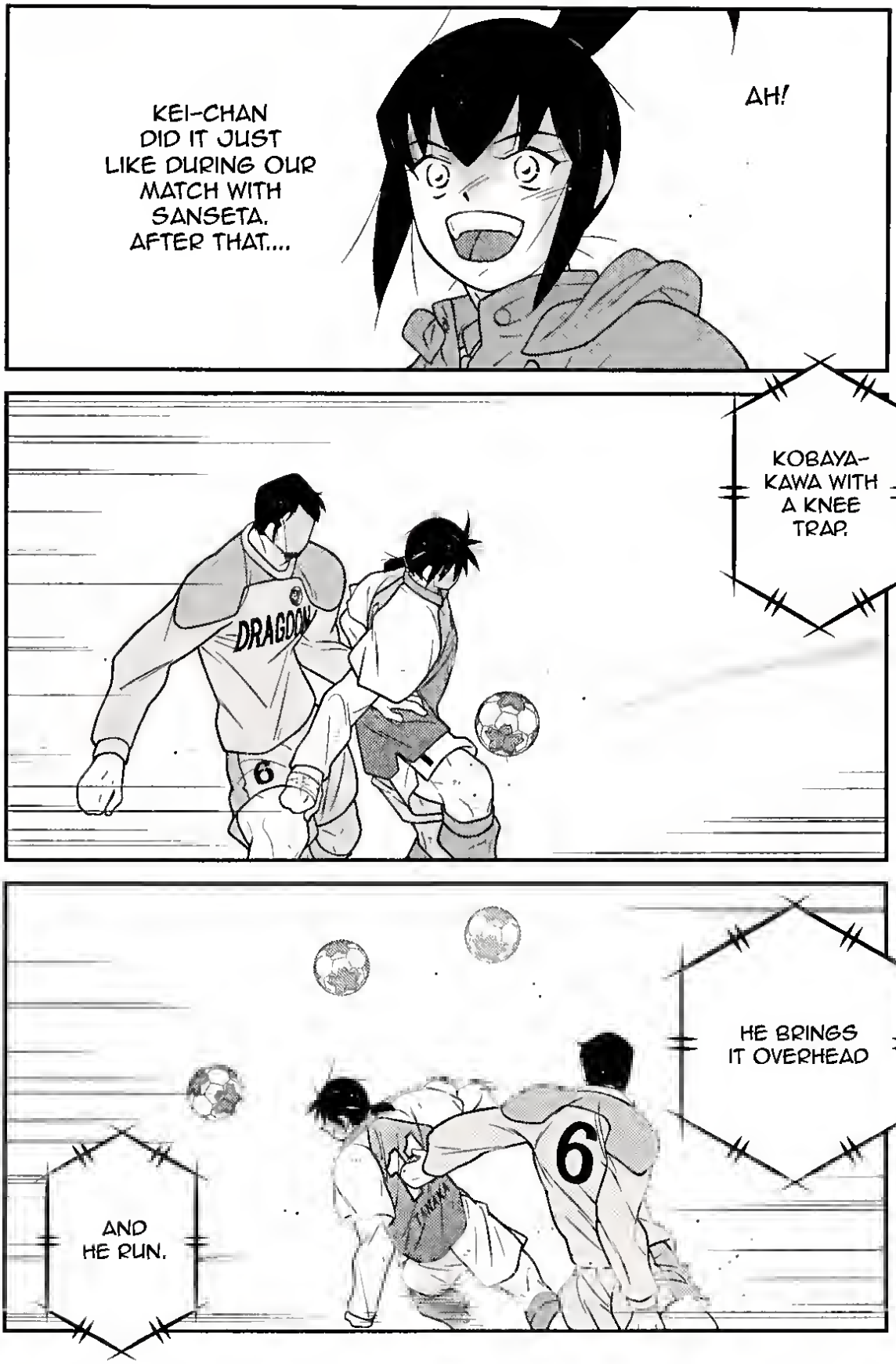

WHAT?
THE KEEPER IS RUNNING FORWARD, BUT IT'S....
DON'T! YOU CAN'T REACH IT!
I'LL REACH IT, NO, I'LL MAKE IT REACH.

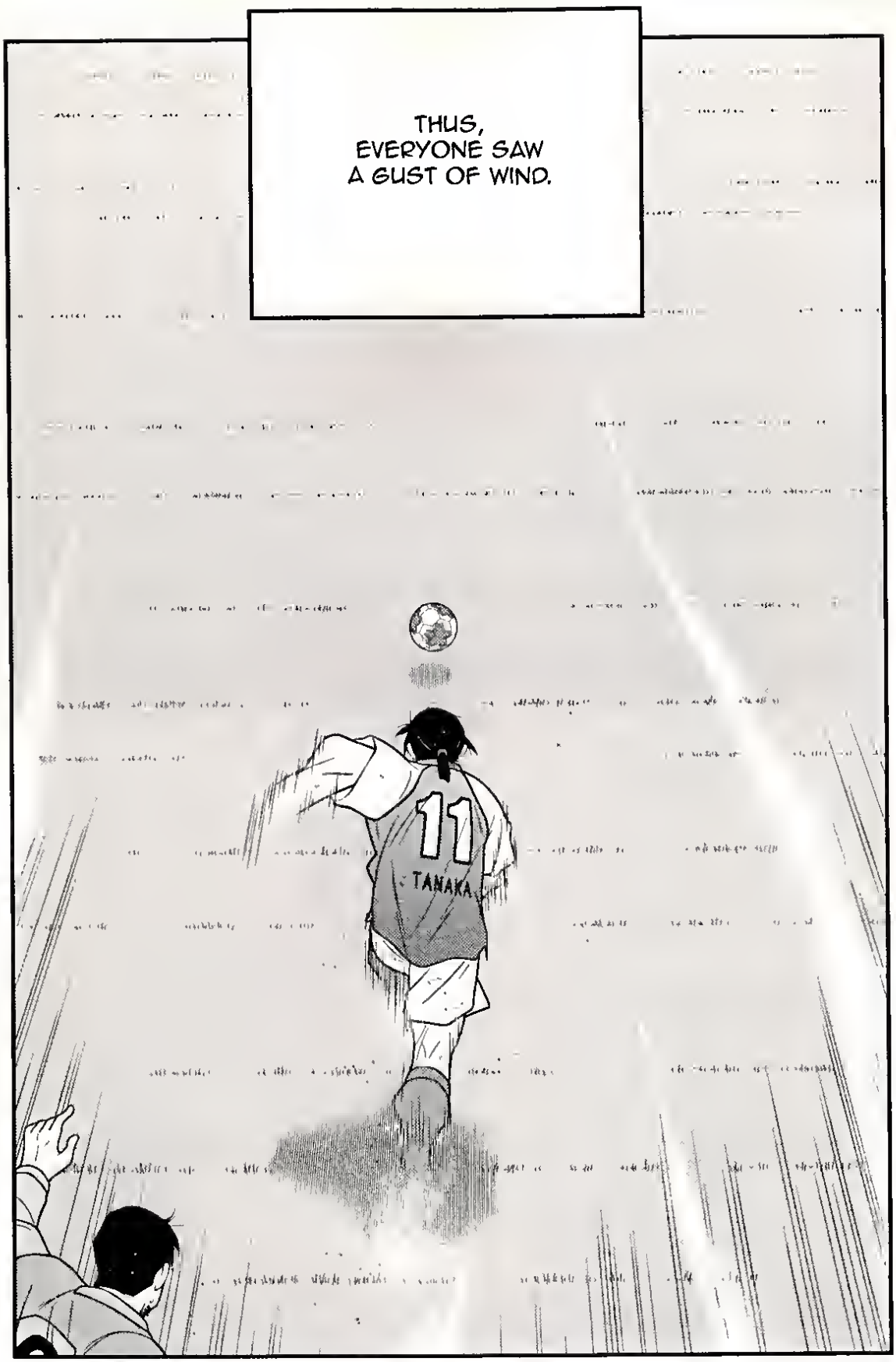
OR ELSE,
I'LL REGRET IT
HE
JUMPED!


FOR EVER SWITCHING WITH KENSHO.

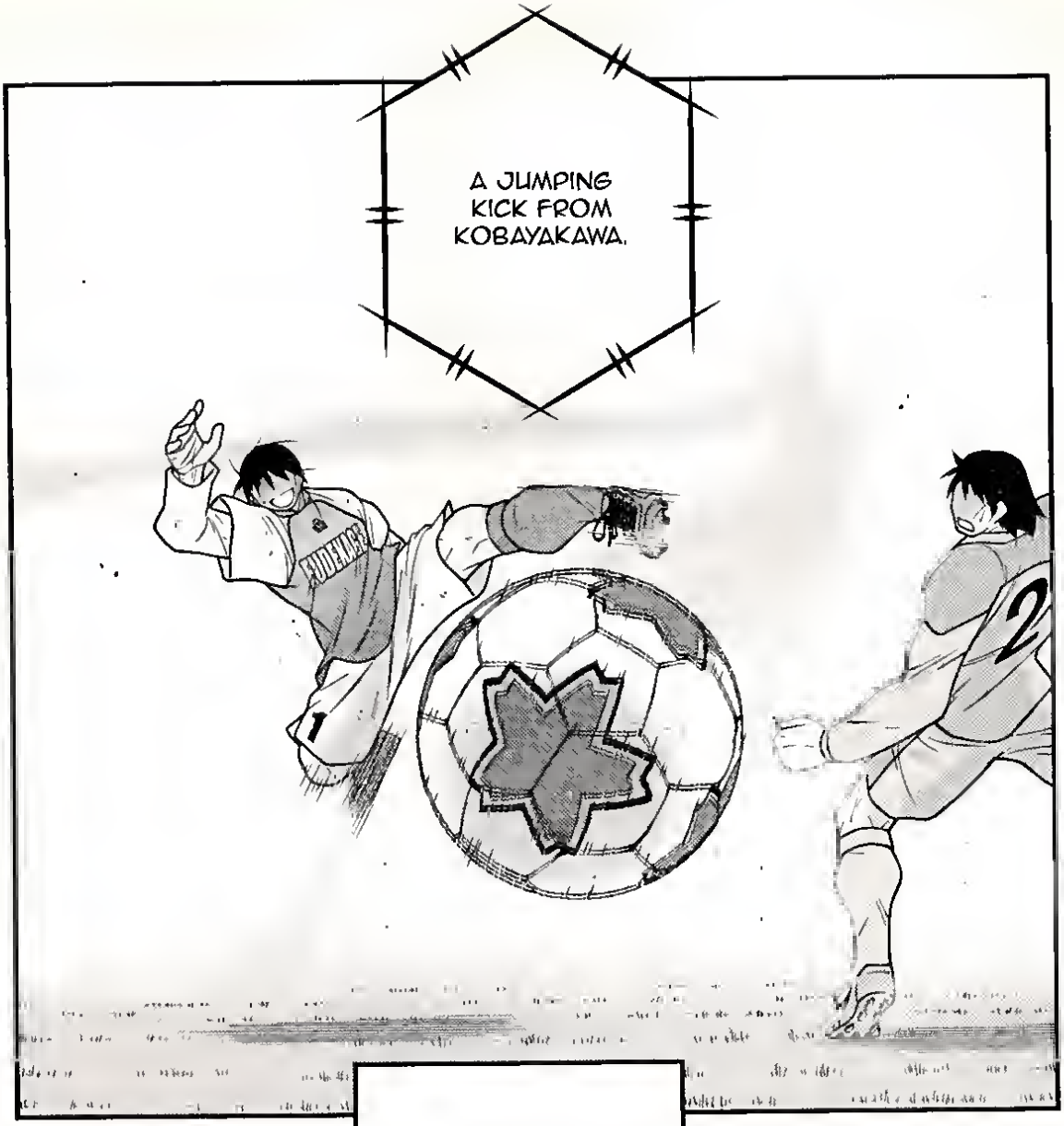

WHAT A JUMP! HE REACHED IT.

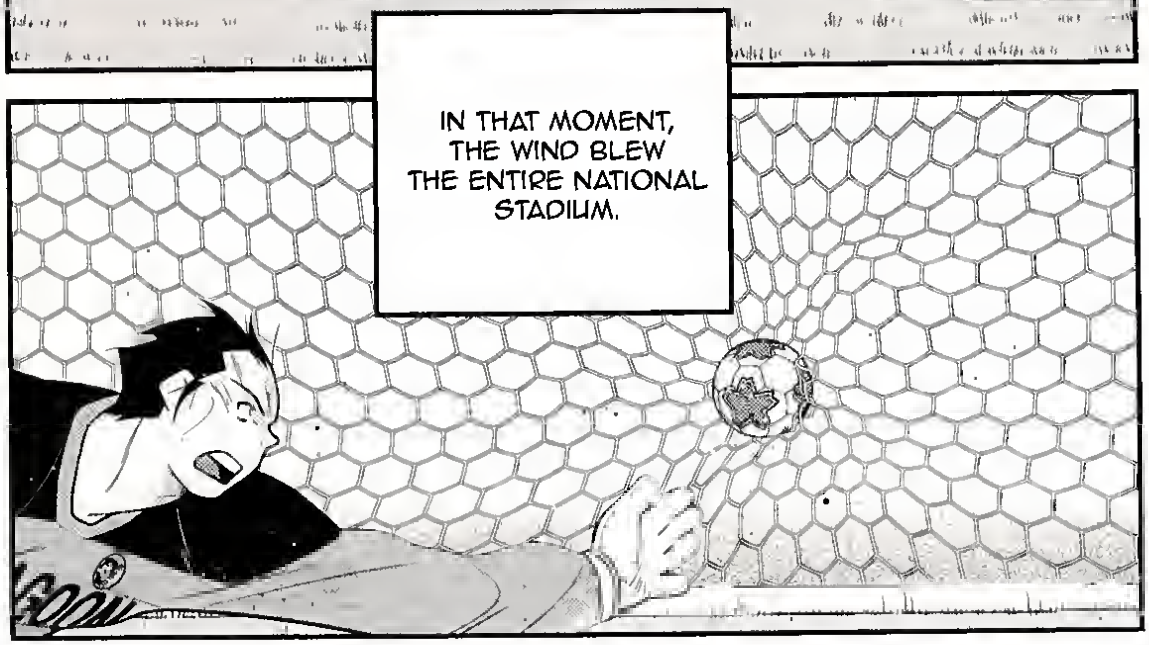
GO!
BUT ISN'T THIS SIMILAR TO A VOLLEY ATTACK?
11
13
7
AND RECEIVING THE BALL IS....
6


KEI-CHAN DID IT JUST LIKE DURING OUR MATCH WITH SANSETA. AFTER THAT....
AH!
KOBAYA-KAWA WITH A KNEE TRAP.
DRAGOON
6
HE BRINGS IT OVERHEAD
AND HE RUN.
6

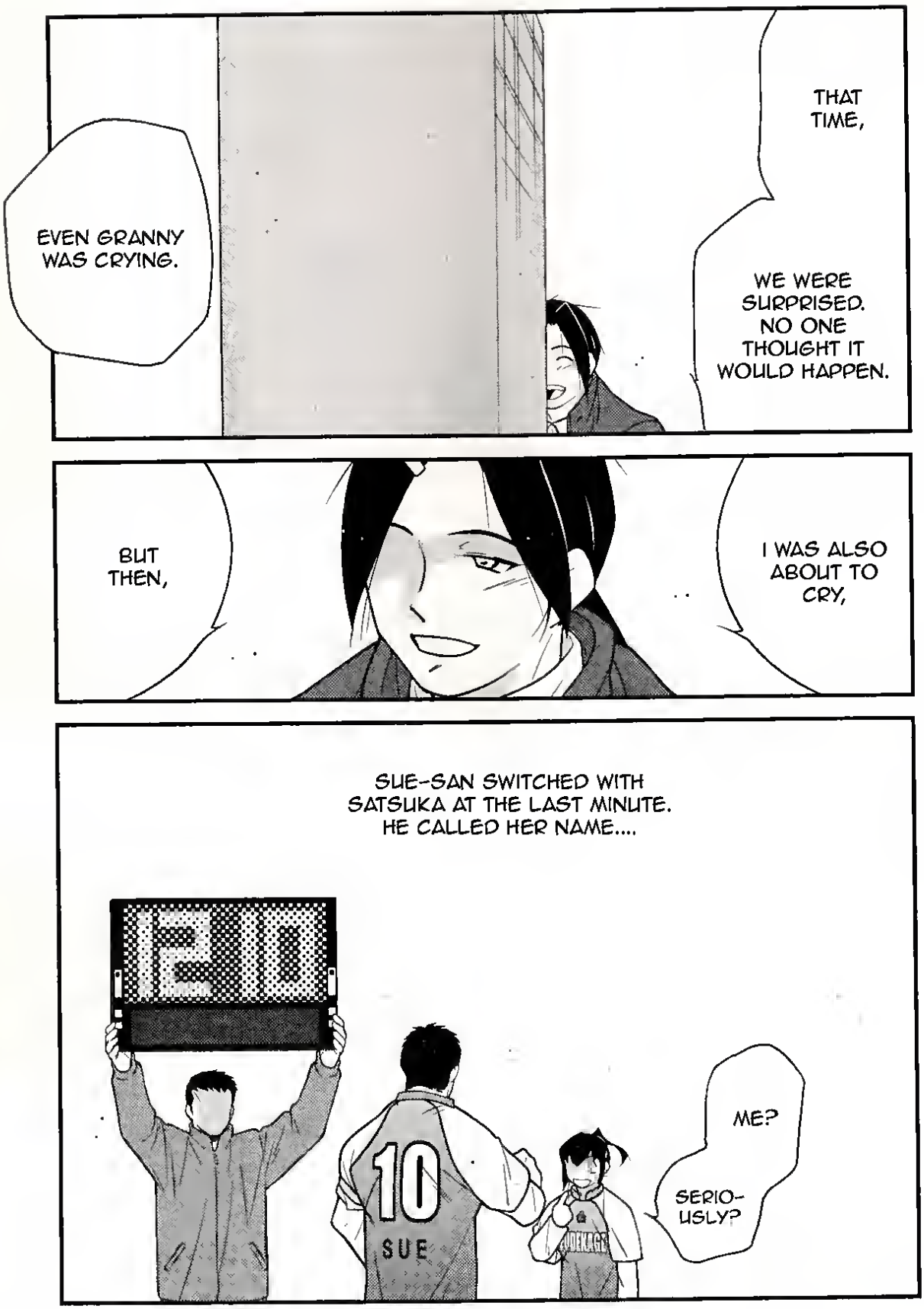

THUS,
EVERYONE SAW
A GUST OF WIND.
11
TANAKA

IT FLOWED TO MAEDA.
DRAGOON
3
AND AROUND TAKAHASHI

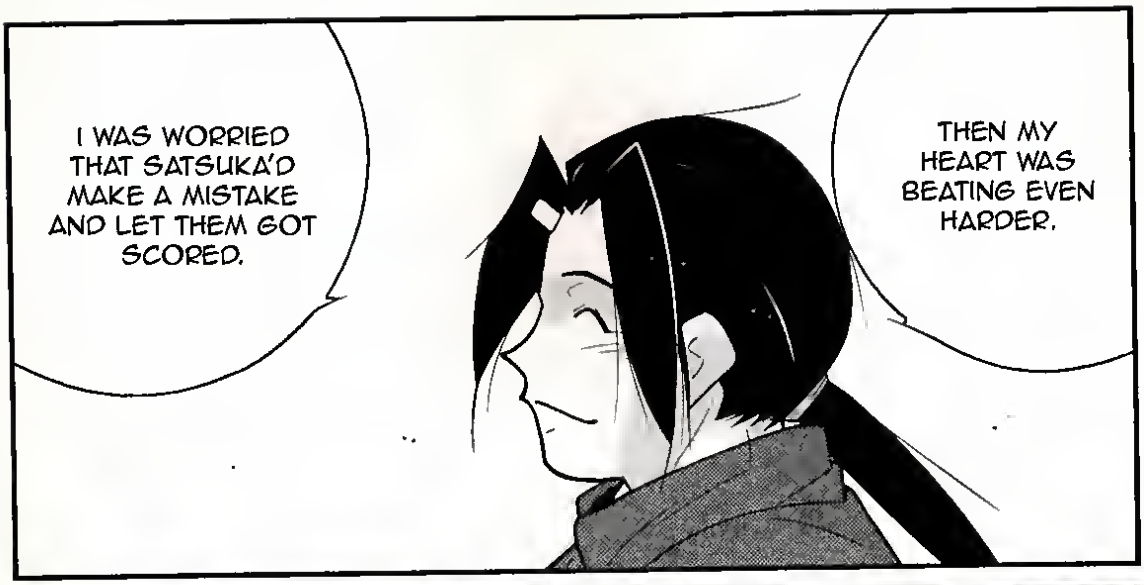

A JUMPING KICK FROM KOBAYAKAWA.
FUDEKAGE
1
2

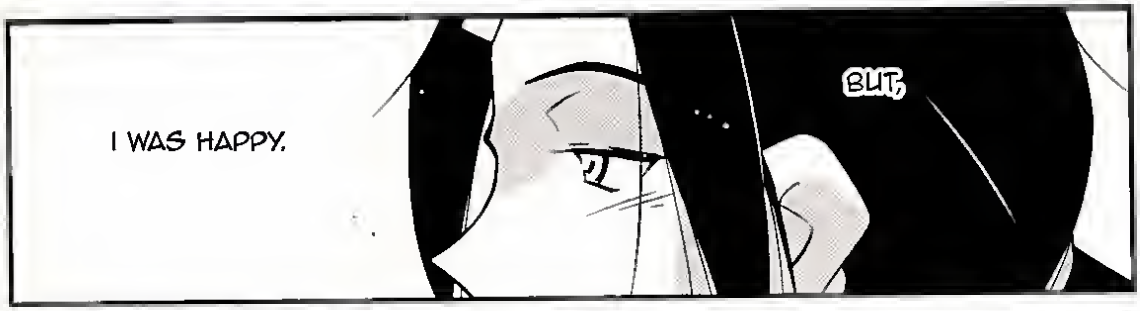

IN THAT MOMENT, THE WIND BLEW THE ENTIRE NATIONAL STADIUM.

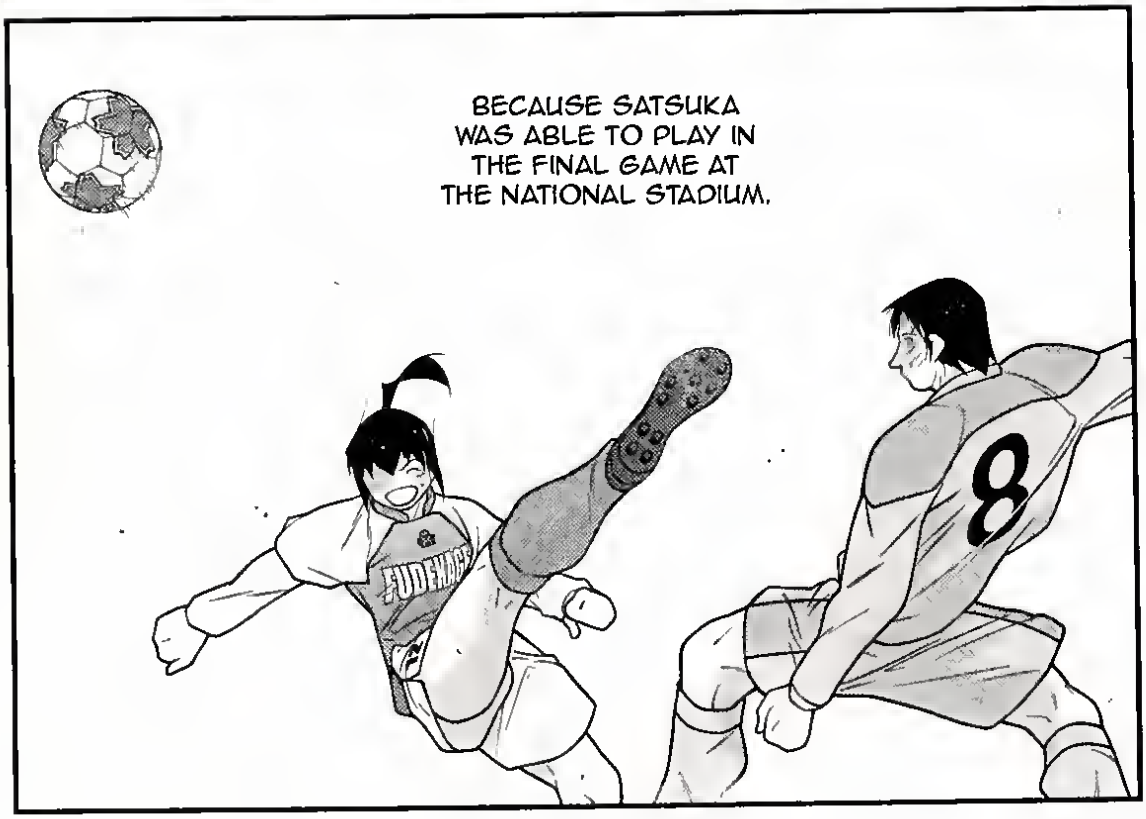
MIHARA FC
FUDEKAGE
A-
A MIRACLE
HAS OCCURED!!!
KENSHO!
RIGHT HERE
IN EMPEROR'S
CUP FINAL,
KEI-CHAN!
OW, IT HURTS!
MY WRIST HASN'T
FULLY RECOVERED
YET!
ニッ
FUDEKAGE
HAS TAKEN
THE LEAD!


EVEN GRANNY WAS CRYING.
THAT TIME,
WE WERE SURPRISED. NO ONE THOUGHT IT WOULD HAPPEN.
BUT THEN,
I WAS ALSO ABOUT TO CRY,
SUE-SAN SWITCHED WITH SATSUKA AT THE LAST MINUTE. HE CALLED HER NAME....
10
SUE
ME?
SERIO-USLY?

YOU BROUGHT US HERE,
SO GO STAND THERE TILL THE END!
WHAT ABOUT
YOU, COACH?
12
I'VE PLAYED HERE
MANY TIMES BACK
IN MY DAYS.
ALSO,
COME ON,
Y-
YEAH!
DON'T ASK
AN OLD MAN
THE IMPOSSIBLE!
12
HIDEKAGE
10


I WAS WORRIED THAT SATSUKA'D MAKE A MISTAKE AND LET THEM GOT SCORED.
THEN MY HEART WAS BEATING EVEN HARDER.


I WAS HAPPY.
BUT,

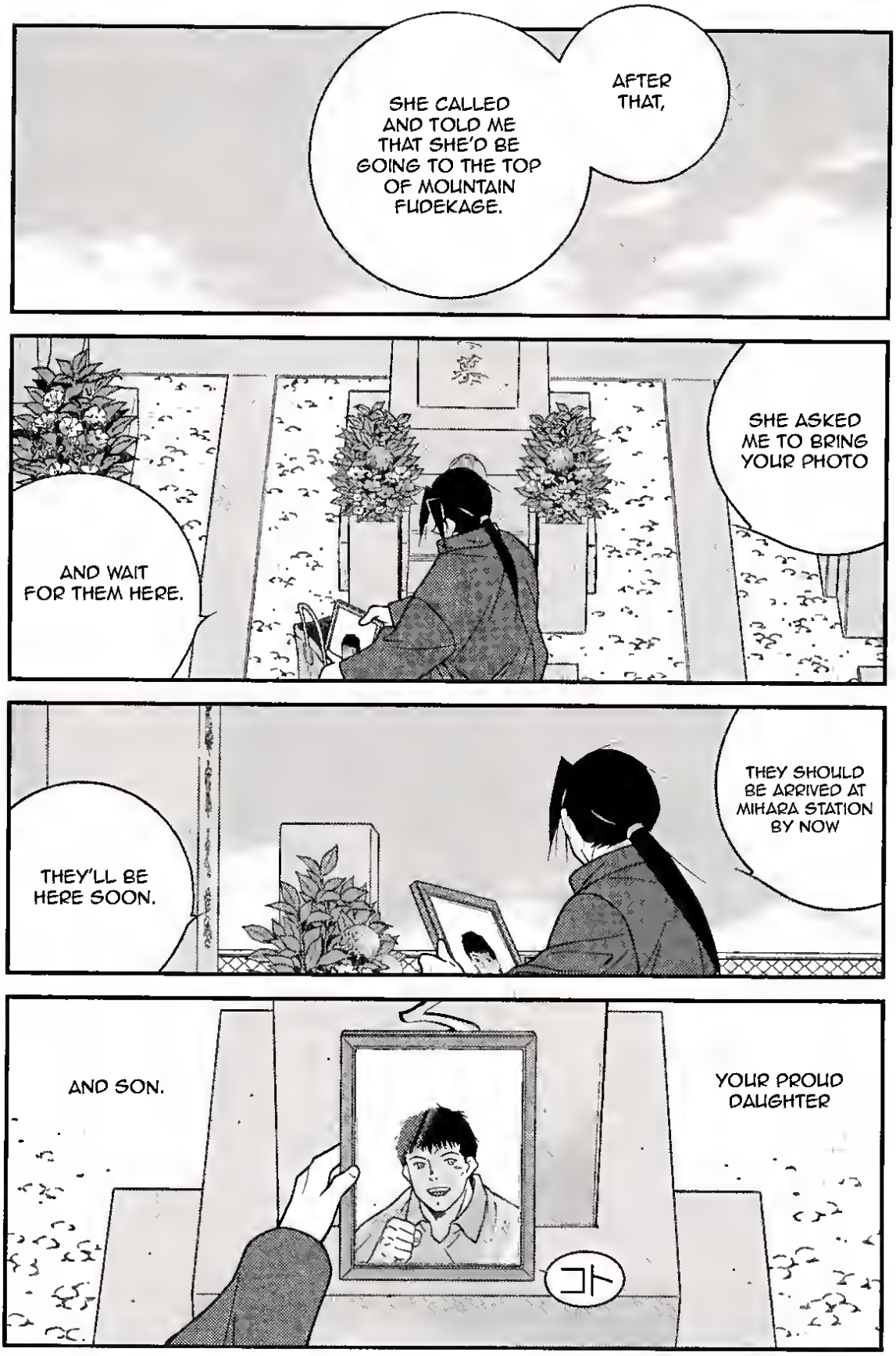

BECAUSE SATSUKA WAS ABLE TO PLAY IN THE FINAL GAME AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM.
FUDOMAE
8

AND THE FINAL WHISTLE WAS BLOWN.
BUT AT THE END, SATSUKA CLEARED THE BALL.
HOLD BACK MY TEARS ANYMORE.
THEN, I COULD NO LONGER
I STOPPED CRYING WHEN THEY'RE BEING AWARDED WITH A MEDAL AROUND THEIR NECK. SUE-SAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HOLDING THE CUP.
天皇杯
WINNERS
MIHARA FC
FUDEKAGE

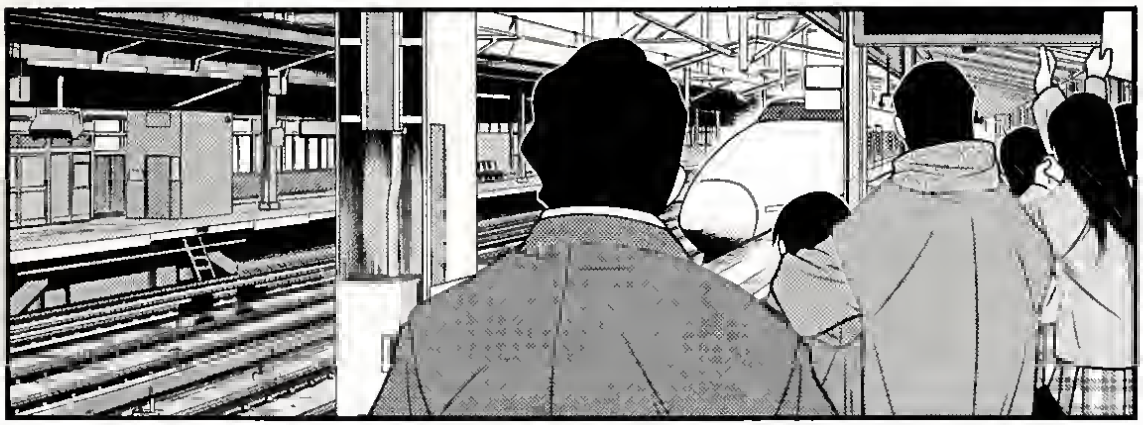
SATSUKA HAVE IT.
BUT HE LET
CRIED OUT BIG TEARS.
AND THAT'S WHEN I SAW HER

YOU SEE, SATSUKA SAID THIS ON TV LAST NIGHT,
TRUTH IS, I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO COME HERE ONLY BRINGING AN ORANGE.
天皇杯 優勝
三原FCふでか
NOW SATSUKA-SAN, WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER YOU RETURN TO MIHARA?
YES, FIRST I'LL GO VISIT MY FATHER'S GRAVE.
THEN I'LL GO WITH EVERYONE

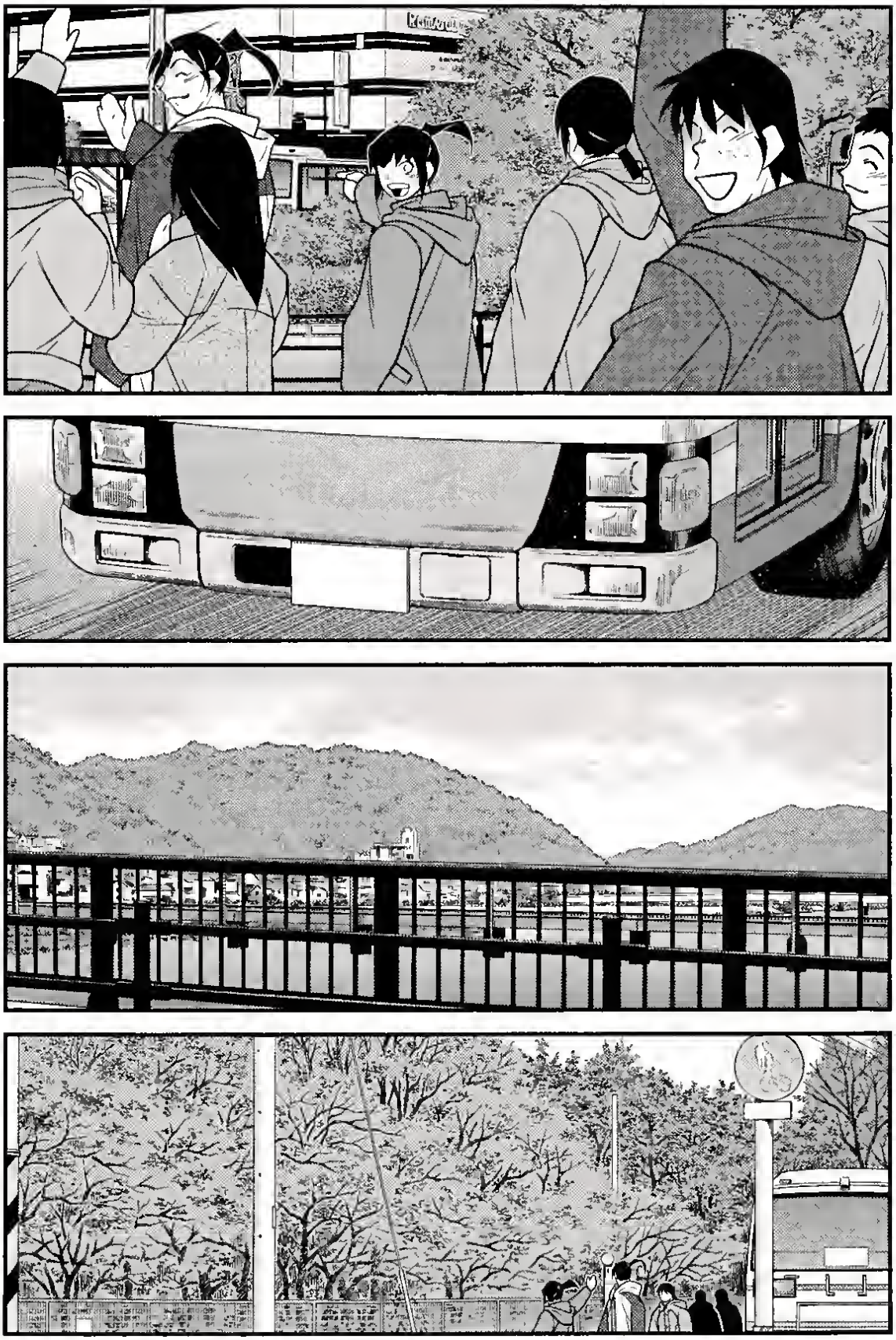
WE'LL GO TO THE TOP
TO MOUNTAIN FUDEKAGE.
AND RAISED THE EMPEROR'S CUP ONCE AGAIN.
AH, SO EVERYONE BACK IN MIHARA,
BE SURE TO WELCOME US AT THE STATION!
BECAUSE WE'LL DEPART IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT.
HEY!
JUST WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
SO WAIT FOR US THERE, OKAY?

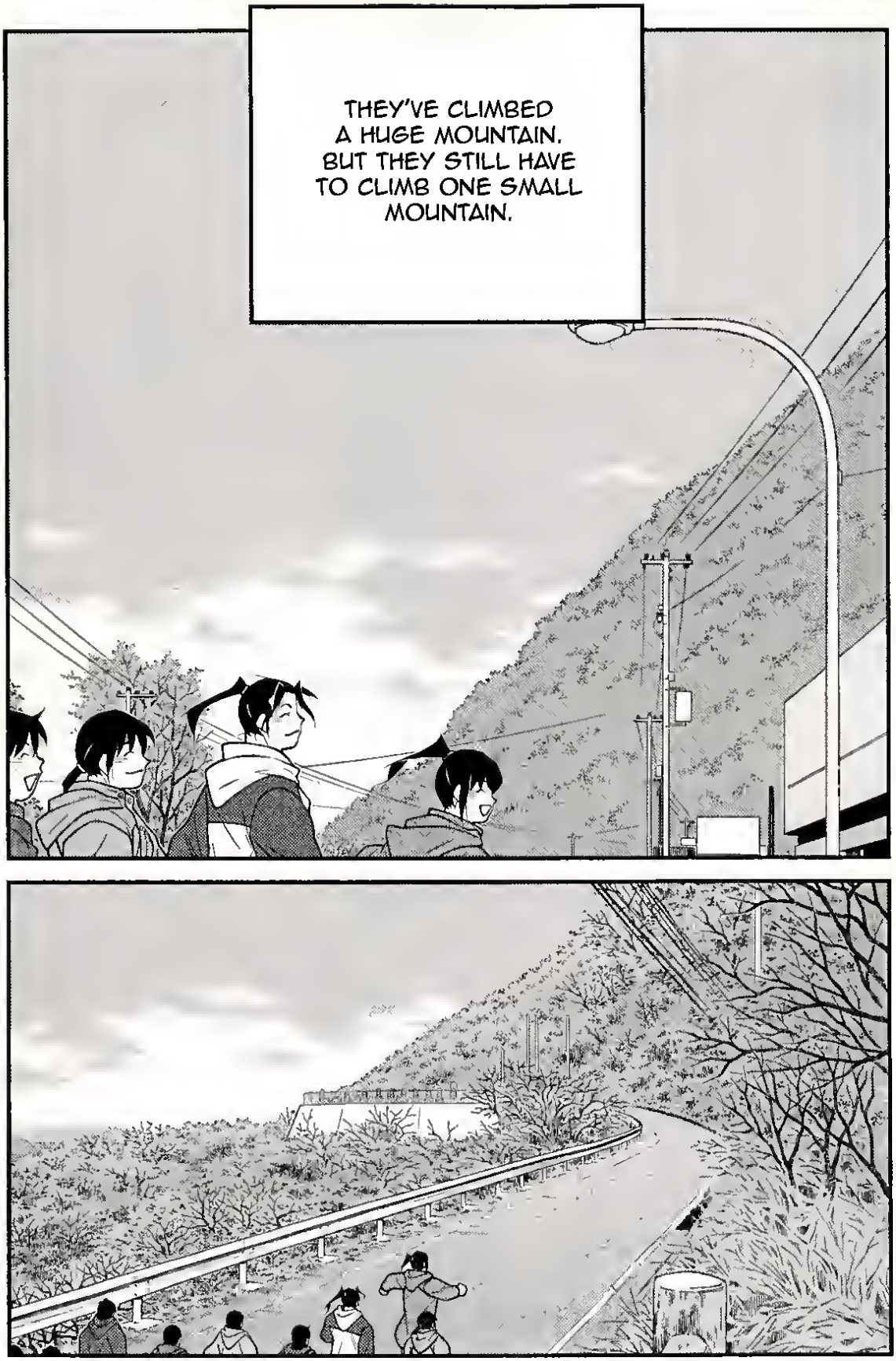

AFTER THAT,
SHE CALLED AND TOLD ME THAT SHE'D BE GOING TO THE TOP OF MOUNTAIN FUDEKAGE.
SHE ASKED ME TO BRING YOUR PHOTO
AND WAIT FOR THEM HERE.
THEY SHOULD BE ARRIVED AT MIHARA STATION BY NOW
THEY'LL BE HERE SOON.
YOUR PROUD DAUGHTER
AND SON.
コト

JR 三原駅
MIHARA STATION



天皇杯優勝おめでとう



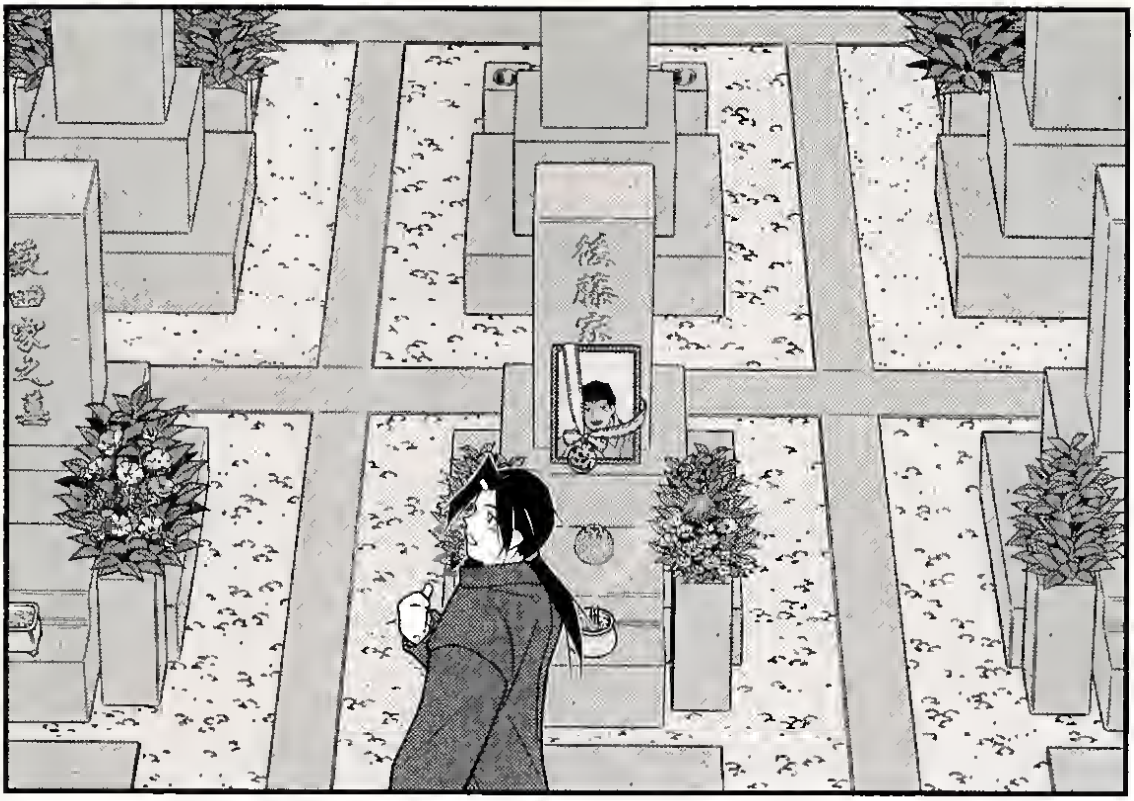

THEY'VE CLIMBED A HUGE MOUNTAIN. BUT THEY STILL HAVE TO CLIMB ONE SMALL MOUNTAIN.

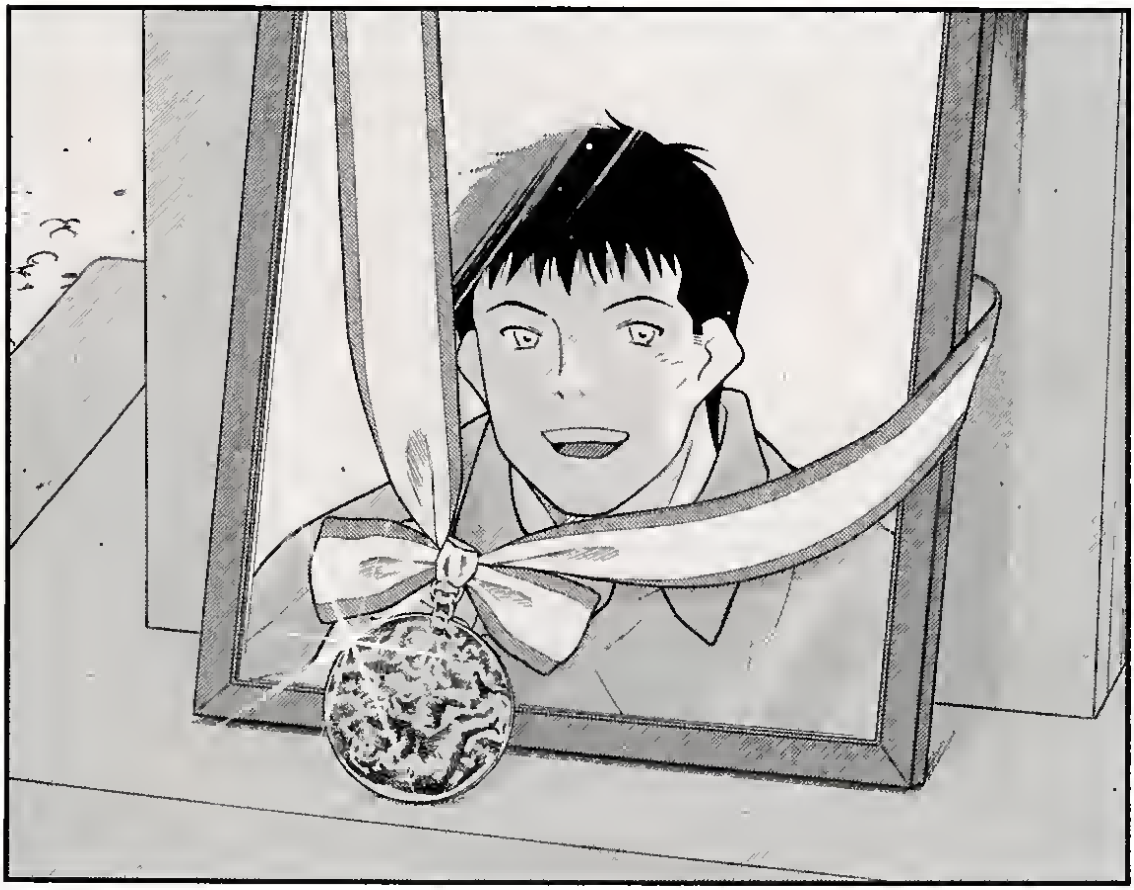
TO AIM
FOR ANOTHER
BRAND NEW SMILE
ONCE AGAIN.

EMPEROR'S CUP FINAL TOURNAMENT
MIHARA FC FUDEKAGE'S RECORD

1ST ROUND	YAMAGUSHI UNIVERSITY	2 — 0
2ND ROUND	HAKATA DONTAX (J1)	2 — 1
3RD ROUND	MINAMITETSU SC OKAYAMA	2 — 0
4TH ROUND	KUBIRA KAGAWA (J2)	1 — 0
QUARTER FINAL	SANSETA HIROSHIMA (J1)	3 — 2
SEMIFINAL	GIGANTES TOKYO (J1)	4 — 3
FINAL	NAGOYA DRAGOON (J1)	1 — 0

MEMBERS			TOTAL GOALS
1	KENSHO KOBAYAKAWA	GOAL KEEPER	3 PTS.
2	ASAI SHIRO	CENTER BACK	0 PT.
3	NOBUYUKI IMAI	LEFT BACK	0 PT.
4	OISHI KAZUTAKA	CENTER BACK	0 PT.
5	TADASHI NISHIDA	RIGHT BACK	0 PT.
6	KOUSUKE YAMAMOTO	CENTER MID FIELDER	1 PT.
7	TAKAFUMI SHIMA	CENTER MID FIELDER	0 PT.
8	HINATA MAEDA	LEFT WING	3 PTS.
9	JIN TAKAHASHI	RIGHT WING	1 PT.
10	HIDEYUKI SUE	CENTER MID FIELDER	1 PT.
11	TSUNETO TANAKA	CENTER FORWARD	5 PTS.
12	SATSUKA GOTOU	CENTER MID FIELDER	1 PT.
13	IGNACIO DA SILVA	CENTER FORWARD	0 PT.





「修羅の門異伝 ふでかげ」第8巻 終わり

あとがき

僕はサッカーが嫌いだった。

何を言い出すのか?あれほど作中で拳将はじめ、ふでかげの面々がサッカーを嫌いにならない:サッカーが大好きであることを謳いそれを貫いたというのに:。と、書いたものの冷静なあなたは気付いていると思います。「サッカーが嫌いだった」そう、過去形である。過去形ですが、たぶん、中学三年の冬くらいまでは、本当に嫌いだった。

見るサッカーではなくて、やるサッカーです。体育の授業でやるサッカーです。今と違って、Jリーグもありません。某有名サッカー漫画も登場する遥か以前。よって、生徒も先生もサッカーがいかなるものか:が解っていない。今から思うとそんな感じでした。パス回しだの、ポジショニングだのを知らないサッカー:もちろんオフサイドは理解できなかった。

そういうサッカーで力を発揮するのは、テクニック等でよりも、意欲。そう、僕が人より劣っていたのがその意欲。自分からボールに絡みあるいは寄越せと叫ぶ:とてもそんな事の出来る積極性など、皆無な子供だったのです。だから偶然転がってくるボールがある時にだけ少しプレーする:つまらない授業がサッカー。そんな中、事件が発生します:い

や、事件というか只のファール宣告なんですけど(汗)。

僕は、サッカーは嫌いでしたが格闘漫画にあこがれており、空手の真似事をしておりました:「あぁ、川原の奴・人を蹴ったな!」ここで、多くの方がそう思った事でしょうが、違います。そんな乱暴者ではありません。足を上げ過ぎただけです。僕は空手の真似事のおかげで、自分の頭に乗せた帽子を蹴れるほどに足が自由自在に上がったのです。だからと言って人の頭付近のボールを蹴ったわけではなく、跳ねたボールを腰よりやや上に足を上げ、敵チームより早くマイボールにしようとしただけです。それが「ファール!」当然次からは気を付けて、足を上げ過ぎないようにする:でも「ファール!」どうも、危険かそうでないかには拘らず腰より上に足が上がると反則だと、その先生は理解していたようです。後(のち)に、実際のプレーをテレビで見て「ウソ:この程度はファールじゃないんだ!」愕然としたものです。

意欲に欠ける生徒である僕は、その冬さらに積極性を無くして行くのでありました。

そんな僕のサッカー嫌いがひっくり返ったのは、なんとその体育のサッカー。そして、その要因となったのも、無くしていった積極性。「?:」いま、皆様の頭にこれが浮かんだことでしょう:説明をいたします。

うちのクラスは男子が多く二十七、八人程おり、先生はクラスを4チームに分けたので

す。それも戦力が均等になるように分けるのではなく、上手い二チームとそうでない二チームに…。「ん?それじゃ、そうでないチームはやられっぱなしではないか?」そうならないために、先生は二部制(?)を敷いたのです。上手チームは上手チームとしか試合をしない。チームは昇格しないが、生徒は時折昇格したり降格したりしていたようです。ルール運用には「?」が付いた先生ですが、教育者としては優れた教師であったのだと思います。

で、皆様の想像通り、積極性のない僕は「そうでないチーム」でありました。しかしながら、意欲は低いが足だけは高く上がる僕は、フォワードになるのです。グラウンドは広いのに人数は少ない中、フォワードをやるとどうなるか?ボールに絡まないと試合にならない。必然積極的にならざるを得ない。相手チームは決して派手に仕掛けてはこない。「あれ、楽しいな…サッカー」になるのに時間はかからなかった。僕は、いかに活躍しても一部に昇格することは無かったのですが、これも先生の慧眼によるものでしょう。

そして、第二の事件…実は、ただのゴールですけど(笑)

それは、おそらく最後の授業だったと記憶している。試合は勝っていたのか?同点だったのか?そこまでは記憶にない。試合終了間際、カウンター(的なもの…ね)を狙って僕達は、ゴールに向かって走った…左サイドからのパス(これも奇跡的なアーリークロス?)を斜め後ろから受けた僕は、何を思ったか、トラップせずにそのボールに左回し蹴りをか

ましに行ったのである。体の向きはゴールとは反対・普通に蹴ればボールはサイドラインに向かって飛んでいくだけ・だからなのか?僕はそのボールを空中で足首に引っ掛ける形で掴む(?)と体を反転させそのままシュートーボールは敵ディフェンダーとキーパーの脇を抜けゴールに突き刺さった・。授業後にクラスメイトから「川原のあのゴール何?」と不思議がられたものでしたが、何故そうなったのか?そうしたのか?蹴った自分が理解できないシュート。ただ、へらへら笑っていたように思います。

ともあれ、この冬以降僕にとって「嫌いだった・」サッカーは過去のものになった。

くだらない、昔話にお付き合い下さいましてありがとうございます。

最後に、無理難題、傍若無人の原作者に付き合ってくれた「トビ―」飛永宏之先生となにより「ふでかげ」にここまでお付き合い頂いたあなたに感謝をこめて・もう一度・

ありがとうございました。

平成26年12月

川原正敏

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著 者 川原正敏（かわはらまさとし）
飛永宏之（とびながひろゆき）

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MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

修羅の門異伝

FUDEKAGE

MASATOSHI KAWAHARA

×

HIROYUKI TOBINAGA

8

SHURA NO MON IDEN: FUDEKAGE

VOLUME 8 CHAPTER 24

TRANLATION BY NANATEN

THANKS FOR STICKING AROUND DESPITE MY TYPOS, GRAMMAR MISTAKES, TERRIBLE CLEANING, REDRAWING AND TYPESETTING, ANNOYING FOOTNOTES, AND SLIGHTLY NARCISTIC CREDIT PAGE.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT MY BLOG FOR UPDATES, COMMENTS, DONATIONS, AND SOME OTHER RANDOM SHENNANIGANS

#FUDEKAGE
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Citrus Project
Sings Shura no Toki OP

To celebrate the new Shura no Toki arc, let's sing our hearts out and hoping we'll get a second season!

How to participate:

1. Get the song (http://bit.ly/1R1BQON)
2. Record your voice
3. Send it to me (fridwan31@gmail.com)

Deadline. October 3rd